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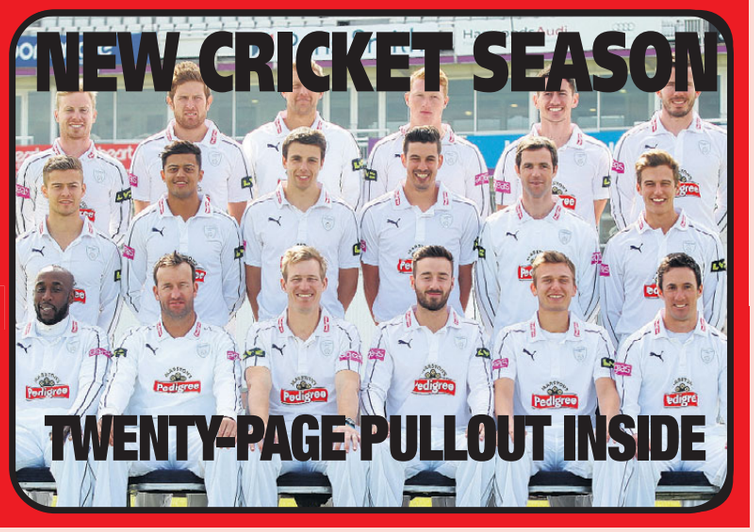

MANY CLOUDS WINS THE GRAND NATIONAL

Horse racing report – pages 44-45

BACK ON TARGET

Saints stars end goal drought to move fifth

ON THE SPOT: James Ward-Prowse scores the opening goal with a penalty

SAINTS 2 HULL 0

JAMES Ward-Prowse and Graziano Pelle both broke their scoring droughts as Saints climbed up to fifth with a 2-0 win over Hull at St Mary's.

Ward-Prowse's second half opener from the penalty spot was his first goal for more than four years, and a first ever in the Premier League.

Pelle added Saints' second with nine minutes remaining to end a run of 14 top flight matches without a goal.

With Tottenham suffering a shock home defeat to Aston Villa, three points for Saints saw Ronald Koeman's side leapfrog Spurs into fifth and take another decisive step towards securing European football for next season.

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EASTLEIGH

Spitfires take on Alfreton Town
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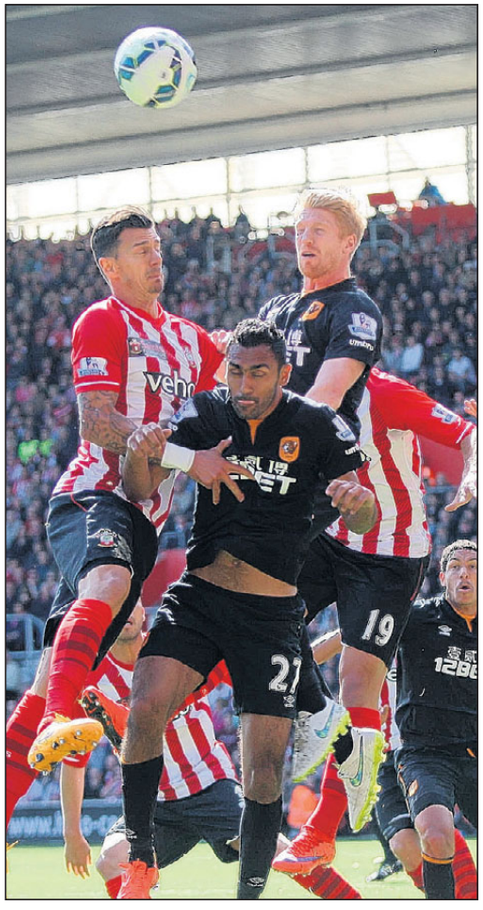
Saints Spotlight



SAINTS 2 HULL 0: GOALS FOR WARD-PROWSE

SAINTS HIT TO MAINTAIN

Adam Leitch
adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

FROM FRONT PAGE

Saints were presented with an opportunity virtually straight from the kick-off as a woefully directed Hull back-pass from the halfway line set Shane Long in on goal.

He opted to take the ball round the outside of keeper Steve Harper but a heavy touch meant he overran it and it went harmlessly behind.

Hull didn't take long to create an opening either as Stephen Quinn cut inside Toby Alderweireld and fed the ball to Sone Aluko but he dragged his shot from 12 yards out across goal and wide of the target.

Aluko did get a shot on target on six minutes, this time bursting down the right and firing low across goal from a tight angle, but Kelvin Davis got down sharply to his right to save.

Hull were causing Saints a few problems early on with Dame N'Doye bringing down a ball that beat Maya Yoshida in the air but slicing well wide.

Saints weathered the storm and started to get a foothold in the game, keeping the ball better and pressing Hull back.

They got a half chance on 16 minutes when a ball dropped to Morgan Schneiderlin just inside the area but he sliced wide a tricky volley.

It took until 20 minutes before Saints created a great chance, which fell to Graziano Pelle.

Long showed great strength to win a raking cross field pass and cut in from the left. He pulled the trigger inside the area but saw his shot blocked by a brave sliding challenge and it broke to Pelle, whose first time shot from eight yards out was straight at Harper who did well to save with his legs.

Hull always posed a threat though, especially while Saints just struggling for a bit of sharpness, and Aluko's speculative effort from 25 yards out whistled only narrowly wide of the post.

Saints were happy to escape again on 32 minutes when a left wing cross made its way to Quinn but he volleyed into the ground and it was easy for Kelvin Davis.

Pelle became the first man in the book after his arm clubbed into the face of Alex Bruce after challenging for a ball in the air.

Saints were dealt a blow when Victor Wanyama appeared to stop the break of Aluko with a fair challenge only for referee Kevin Friend to adjudge that he pulled the Hull man back. It resulted in a yellow card, which was Wanyama's tenth of the season, meaning he now has to serve a two game ban.

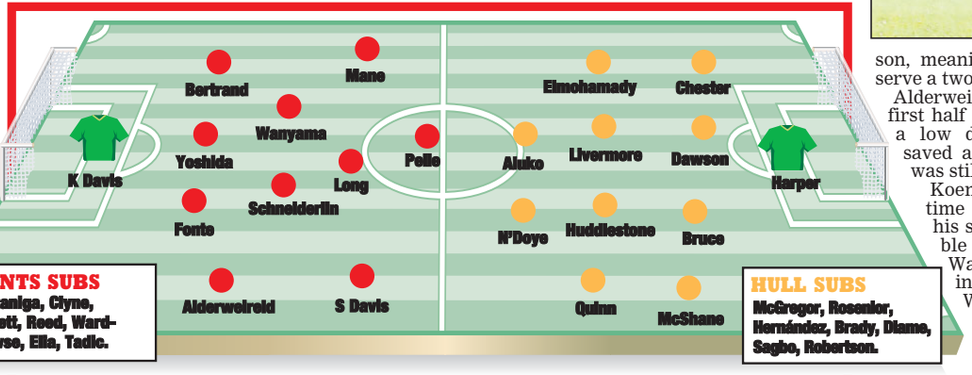
Alderweireld threatened in first half stoppage time with a low drive that Harper saved and at the break it was still goalless.

Koeman made a half time change to protect his side against a possible sending off for Wanyama by replacing him with James Ward-Prowse.

Saints didn't start the second half with an awful lot more urgency, still somewhat sluggish and struggling to really make an impact.

They were grateful to Kelvin Davis for an excellent save on 54 minutes to keep the scores level.

The Saints stopper made a superb dive to his left to man-



SAINTS SUBS
Gazzaniga, Clyne, Targett, Reed, Ward-Prowse, Ella, Tadic.

HULL SUBS
McGregor, Rosenior, Hernández, Brady, Diame, Sagbo, Robertson.

TEAM NEWS

Ronald Koeman made three changes to the team that were beaten by Everton for the visit of Hull to St Mary's.

There was a change in defence with Nathaniel Clyne dropped to the bench, with Koeman saying the player was tired. Toby Alderweireld moved to right back with Maya Yoshida coming into the side in the centre of defence. The other two changes came in the attacking positions.

Steven Davis and Sadio Mane were drafted into the side with James Ward-Prowse and Elerjo Elia amongst the subs.

Filip Djuricic was missing with a minor ankle injury.

TODAY'S LIVE SCORES – SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

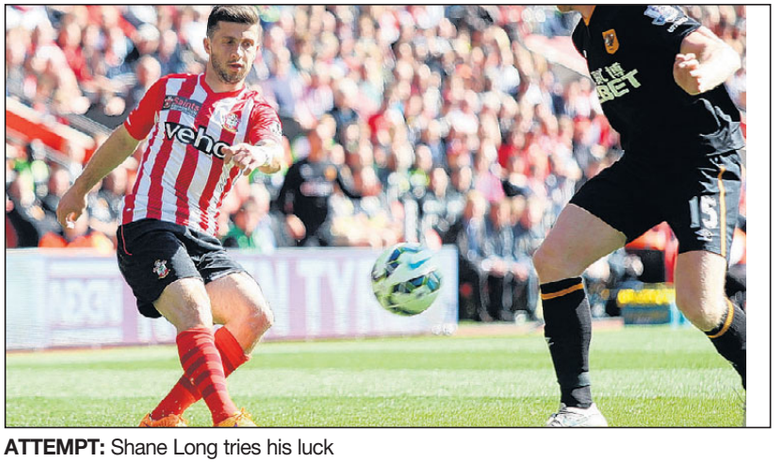
AND PELLE SEND SAINTS FIFTH

THE SPOT EURO BID

SCORER: Graziano Pelle (right) netted Saints' second

FOUL: Shane Long is brought down for the penalty

BACK IN THE GOALS: Graziano Pelle on the ball for Saints



ATTEMPT: Shane Long tries his luck

age to keep out a fierce low drive from just outside the area by Jake Livermore.

It proved a turning point as a ball down the outside moments later led to the Saints opener.

Saints finally got something to grab hold of as Long burst behind and into the area down the right side and was chopped down by Bruce.

There was no doubt it was a penalty and referee Friend duly pointed to the spot.

Ward-Prowse stepped up to take it on 56 minutes and showed great technique and composure to side foot home with Harper guessing correctly and diving to his left but well beaten by the direction and pace of the strike as the midfielder scored his first ever Premier League goal.

Hull threatened to equalise soon afterwards as James Chrster headed goalwards from a corner but Ryan Bertrand hacked the ball off the line.

Saints made a second change on 61 minutes with Dusan Tadic replacing Mane. Hull responded with Mohamed Diame coming on for Chester.

Both sides made a further switch on 74 minutes.

Hull brought on Yannick Sagbo for Tom Huddlestone while for Saints it was their final one with Eljero Elia replacing Long.

There was much to celebrate with nine minutes remaining as Saints sealed the win – and Pelle broke his scoring duck.

It was an incisive and well worked Saints move that led to the goal.

Tadic cut inside from the right and feed a perfect ball down the outside to Schneiderlin in the area. He intelligently pulled it back to Pelle who had the simple task of rolling home a finish from eight yards out with Harper all but beaten.

Hull made a final change with Abel Hernandez coming on for Aluko.

Saints should have added another goal on 89 minutes as Alderweireld got to the right by-line and cut the ball back perfectly to Steven Davis in the centre of the goal, just eight yards out.

However, he was left with his head in his hands as he side-footed his finish over the bar.

It mattered not though for Saints as by that stage they had taken the wind out of Hull's sails and done enough to equal their record Premier League points haul for a season and move still closer to European football.

SAINTS MATCH REACTION – SEE PAGE 4

Saints Spotlight

'I JUST DIDN'T RECOGNISE SAINTS IN FIRST HALF'

RONALD Koeman was relieved to see Saints get a win against Hull after admitting he didn't recognise his side in the first 45 minutes.

Adam Leitch
adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

The Saints boss was stunned to see a lacklustre and nervy start to the game from his team, before they turned it around in the second period to secure the win thanks to a James Ward-Prowse penalty and another from Graziano Pelle.

It was a significant three points too on a weekend that saw Tottenham slip to a surprise defeat at home to Aston Villa.

Koeman admitted he was relieved that his side managed to get the victory.

He said: "In the end yes but it took us a long time that I recognise my team on the pitch. It wasn't the first 45 minutes.

"Hull played well, Hull was the better team, of course we had the better chances and we have to score after one minute and it makes it much more easier.

"Graziano get a good chance, good save of the goalkeeper, but looking nervous. I was disappointed about that and unhappy at half time. If you fight for relegation you have to be nervous but if you fight for something special in the season, why are you nervous?

"We know our qualities and it wasn't good enough in the first half."

Koeman admitted his delight at Pelle ending a run of 14 games without a Premier League goal.

"Of course," he smiled. "It's normal, the last goal was in December. It's a long time ago.

"It wasn't a discussion, it wasn't a question how he is playing because he showed his qualities to be a strong target man but if you are a striker you like to score and you need to score and it will help him a lot the second goal."

It was also a significant strike from the penalty spot from Ward-Prowse, who scored his first for Saints in four years and a first ever in the top flight – but only after Koeman ordered Sadio Mane away from the spot kick.

"I was surprised because everybody knows if Prowsey is on the pitch and normally Dusan and they are the first and the second choice to take the penalty," insisted Koeman.

"I had to shout to Jose to change that because it looks that Sadio take the penalty and Prowsey accept that and I don't understand that because he knows the first choice. It was a difficult situation, a difficult situation, but I had to do it."

Cherries boss Howe out to win every game

BOURNEMOUTH manager Eddie Howe stressed that his side had "won nothing yet" after late goals from Yann Kermorgant and Callum Wilson put them four points clear at the top of the Championship with a 2-0 success at Brighton.

The Cherries' sixth win in their last nine games has given them an advantage over nearest rivals Norwich and Watford with four games remaining, but Howe believes promotion places are still very much up for grabs.

He said: "We've four games left now and we've got to look at taking 12 points; we have to try and win every game.

"It wouldn't surprise me if one of the sides at the top wins all their last games. Nothing has been won yet.

"I won't accept that we are favourites, I still think it is anyone's.

"This league has a habit of throwing up surprises and we must stay strong to the end."

Kermorgant now boasts 16 goals this season and Wilson 21, and Howe said he was "really proud" of setting a new club goalscoring record.

The Cherries now total 106 goals in all competitions and Howe said: "It will be the goalscorers that will get the headlines, but this win was a team achievement.

"I'm really proud of our goalscoring record this season and it is a team thing. The lads deserve a lot of credit."

Kermorgant put the Cherries ahead with a tremendous curling free-kick after 70 minutes, and Howe enthused: "A moment of magic won us the game."

Brighton remain nine points clear of the drop-zone following Wigan's 2-2 draw with Fulham and boss Chris Hughton was quick to emphasise his men still have work to do with four games left.

Reflecting on three defeats in the last week, the former Newcastle, Birmingham and Norwich manager said: "We need more points. The challenge is to get them in our last four games.

"We don't want to rely on the teams below us; we are going to need to score more goals."

Brighton have now gone seven hours 50 minutes without a goal from one of their own players, and Hughton admitted: "I'm surprised that we are not scoring as we have been creating chances.

"There are some games when we have not been creative enough, and that is probably the biggest area to address."

Asked if he felt Bournemouth had the credentials to achieve promotion, Hughton said he felt Howe's team had as good a chance as anyone to realise their ambition. He said: "They are there on merit. Bournemouth are one of a group of teams who can do it; they've got enough quality and they produced a result against us, which is what the better teams do."

TODAY'S GRAND NATIONAL NEWS – SEE PAGE 44

Non-league Action

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

BACK OF THE NET: Joe Partington scores

Pictures: Rachel Adams

Spitfires close on play-off positions

EASTLEIGH will travel to Halifax on Tuesday knowing a positive result will take them into the Vanarama Conference play-off zone.

This afternoon's 3-1 home win over Alfreton Town leaves them a point outside fifth spot with a game in hand.

Kick-off at the Silverlake was delayed by half-an-hour after the visitors' team coach broke down on the M40.

With Eastleigh skipper Dean Beckwith unwell and Michael Green out with a hamstring problem, Paul Reid again wore the captain's armband as Richard Hill stuck with the same line-up that won at Welling on Monday.

The game had an end-of-season feel to it early on with Eastleigh's James Constable registering the first shot of note in the seventh minute after Jack Midson had headed the ball into his half.

That chance apart, the Spitfires' early threat was reduced to free-kicks and corners which were well dealt with by the mass ranks of Red defenders.

Constable felt hard done by when he earned no more than a corner after he and goalkeeper Tom Flynn fell over each other tussling for an awkward ball just inside the Alfreton area. And then the Spitfires no. 9 was again set-up by Midson, this time with a cross from the right but he flicked it wide of the near post.

Constable again went to ground just outside the visitors' box on 19 minutes when challenged from behind by Lathaniel Rowe-Turner. But, despite an outcry from the home bench, nothing was given.

It looked like turning into a frustrating game of football for Eastleigh until a stoke of luck went their way with 20 minutes gone.

There were only Red players in the box when Midson delivered from the left, but the ball took a slight deflection off one of them and went behind for a corner on the right.

Jai Reason's initial delivery came straight back to him, but he guided the second straight into the heart of the six-yard box where Joe PARTINGTON opened the scoring from close range.

But just when Eastleigh looked ready to take a grip on proceedings, they were rocked back on their heels by a 25th minute equaliser.

Home keeper Ross Flitney was not convinced the ball had crossed the line when Karl HAWLEY got on the end of Joe Leesley's corner, but the goal stood.

As a curious afternoon continued, Alfreton handed the lead back to Eastleigh on 32 minutes when Simon Lenighan needlessly wrestled Reason over in the area.

Keeper Flynn guessed correctly by diving to his right, but could not keep out Ben STREVENS' spot-kick which he fired accurately into the bottom corner.

A match that was already running late then took another bizarre twist when the game was held-up for another six minutes because part of the sprinkler system was sticking up just outside the centre-circle and was deemed dangerous by referee Nicholas Kinseley.

The offending articles was dealt with an eventually the groundsman arrived with a bucket and spade to fill in the hole. Not surprisingly the game lost all its shape and, with the clock ticking before 4.20pm, seven minutes of first-half stoppage time were announced.

There was still time, though, for Eastleigh to create a decent late chance when Partington's goal-bound header was cleared and Strevens blasted the follow-up wide.

Both teams took time to get going after the break before a moment of magic from Constable almost added to Eastleigh's lead.

He took the ball down on the edge of the box, shifted to the right of Rowe-Turner and, in one sweet movement whistled a shot wide of Flynn's right-hand post.

Constable continued to keep Alfreton's rear guard well occupied and then Howard produced an inspired piece of improvisation, spotting Flynn off his line before letting fly from 45 yards and missing the target by just of couple of feet.

A rare Alfreton raid saw Flitney deal well with Dan Bradley's shot from the byline before, at the other end, Howard fired over from Constable's effort.

An injury stoppage for Reid delayed matter further and then Turley required treatment to his face after being caught by Wood, who was shown a second yellow on 69 minutes reducing the visitors to ten men.

Midson rifled a 25-yarder over and drifted another effort wide as Eastleigh continued to create chances.

By now Deon Burton had gone on in place of Howard, but another door closed on the Spitfires when Midson dinked the ball into Constable's path and, with Flynn having raced out of his box, the free-kick went in the visitors' favour as the pair collided.

When Eastleigh's third goal finally arrived it was with the help of a deflection as midfielder Craig STANLEY drove in a shot from the right of the area.

The ball looped past the wrong footed Flynn and had already crossed the line before Constable arrived to make sure.

There was still time for a terrific by-line charge by Partington, which deserved to end with a goal, and a blocked shot by Constable before the final whistle blew at 5.30pm.

KEEPING THEM OCCUPIED: James Constable in action for Eastleigh

MODEST LEGEND BILL WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED

LAST Saturday saw the news that Saints legend Bill Ellerington had sadly passed away aged 91.

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

I never saw Bill play, I was too young to see him play, but those I knew that did told me he was as good a defender as Southampton were likely to see. Ted Bates told me himself that Bill was in his own "dream team" which was as great a compliment as any Saints footballer could earn.

I met Bill at a time when I was disenchanted with football somewhat; money was becoming more and more of a factor in the game and finding something in the game that could raise your spirits and make you believe was becoming rarer and rarer.

Bill lived in Highfield, just over the road from my old local and as such the interview was a breeze to arrange and attend. There was something about Bill, he had that rare air to him that just exuded calmness and authority but it came with a sense of immense likeability.

Of all the interviews I did in my years running Beautiful South, Bill Ellerington was by far the best. You sensed that here was a man of immense modesty. He showed that in the way he deflected any mention of his discovering Mick Channon. It was obvious by the way he spoke and the stories he told me that he was pivotal in Channon signing for the Saints but Bill was remarkably modest about it all.

What made the interview so intriguing was the fact that Ellerington had signed for Saints after coming back from the war. Again, with immense modesty he steered the conversation away from his time serving his country as if it was of no real consequence, hardly worth mentioning. For today's professionals, the thought of serving your country in a time of war is impossible to conceive but for Bill and thousands of footballers of his era, it happened and it had an impact on their life that resonated for years to follow.

Bill signed as a professional with Southampton in September 1945 and made his debut in an FA Cup game at Newport County on 10 January 1946 and went on to make 237 first-team appearances and was twice capped for England. After retiring in 1956, he became player-coach of the 'A' side, a scout and continued to work with Ted Bates for years to come. He and Bates scouted Manchester United prior to the 1976 cup final, Mick Channon recounted in his autobiography that the two "watched United so much we knew what they had for breakfast." And that it was "The greatest piece of tactical scouting I have ever known."

People like Bill are, sadly, few and far between and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him or appreciated the immense impact he had on his hometown club. His passing makes the theme of this week's column all the more poignant. Loyalty.

In a forthcoming summer where Saints will again fall under the spotlight, you fear for the club and whether it can survive another "Summer of inconvenience."

I use the word inconvenience as that what's the club is at the moment, an inconvenience for the establishment. In a world where money doesn't just talk, it runs about waving its hands, Saints are an inconvenience simply because they don't conform to the modern-day business plan.

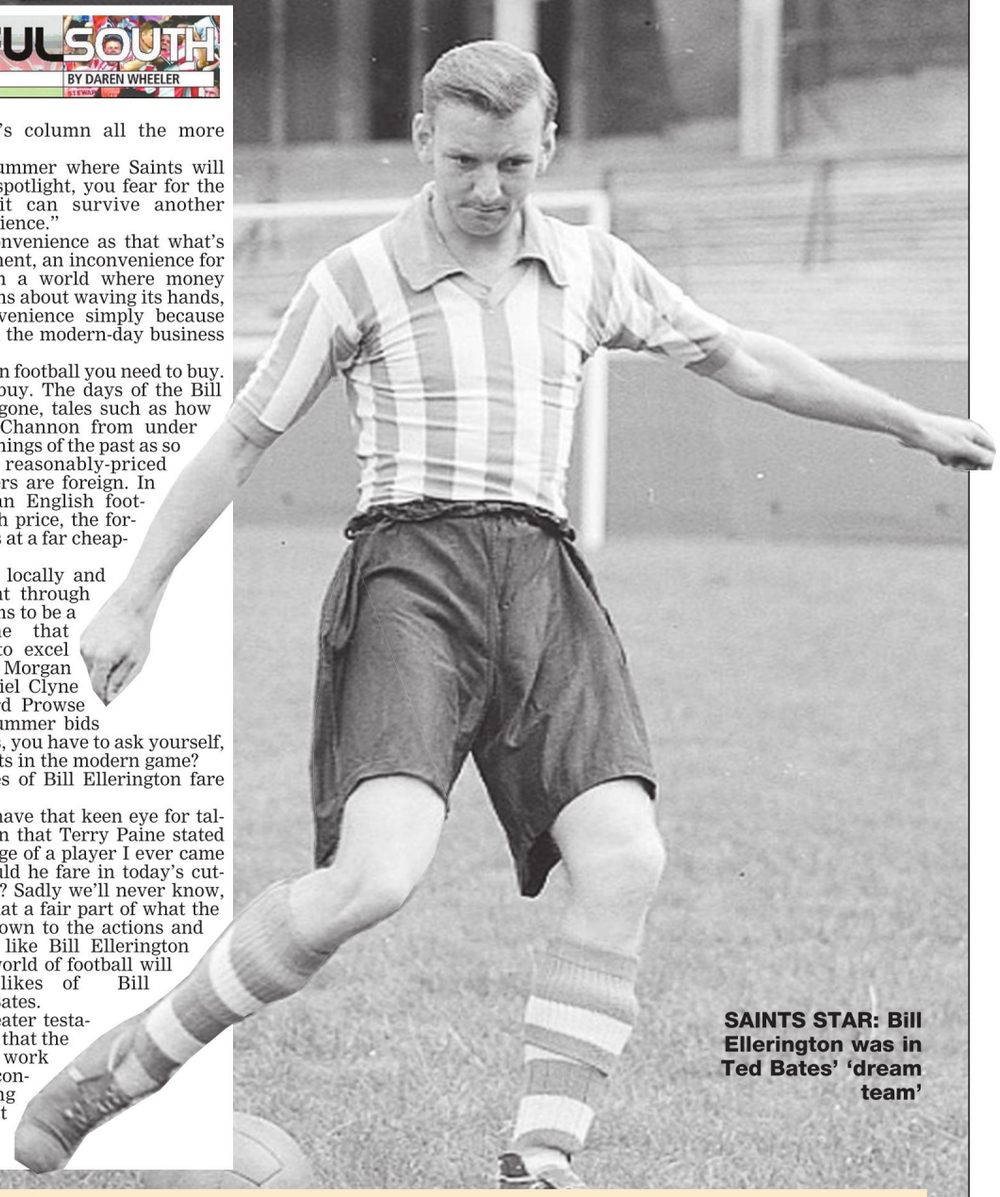
To succeed in modern football you need to buy. Buy, buy, buy, buy, buy. The days of the Bill Ellerington are long gone, tales such as how Saints signed Mick Channon from under Swindon's noses are things of the past as so many of the reasonably-priced Premiership footballers are foreign. In the modern game, an English footballer comes at a high price, the foreign equivalent comes at a far cheaper price tag.

The art of scouting locally and producing local talent through your own system seems to be a dying art but one that Southampton seem to excel in. With rumours that Morgan Schneiderlin, Nathaniel Clyne and now James Ward Prowse now the subject of summer bids from teh big five clubs, you have to ask yourself, why bother with scouts in the modern game?

How would the likes of Bill Ellerington fare today?

No doubt he'd still have that keen eye for talent, an ability so keen that Terry Paine stated "Bill was the best judge of a player I ever came across," but how would he fare in today's cut-throat sporting world? Sadly we'll never know, all we will know is that a fair part of what the club has become is down to the actions and dedication of people like Bill Ellerington and Ted Bates. The world of football will always need the likes of Bill Ellerington and Ted Bates.

There can be no greater testament to your life than that the focus of your life's work will remember your contribution to it, long after you've gone. Rest in peace Bill..



SAINTS STAR: Bill Ellerington was in Ted Bates' 'dream team'

A true legend – Terry Paine pays tribute to Bill Ellerington

IT WAS extremely sad to hear that Bill Ellerington had passed away,

I had known Bill since I was nine years old.

I used to see him in Winchester on the Highcliffe estate when he came to visit his then fiancée Ros Gregory.

I lived round the corner in Portal road but was always at the Gregory's because they ran the local football team Highcliffe Corinthians and it was the only place I could borrow a football to take to the local playing fields,

Ever since those days our paths met on a regular basis, little did I know that a few years later I would be wearing a Saints shirt and Bill was to play a big part in my football education.

Not only was he an outstanding player and coach but also a very shrewd judge of talent.

His association with the club lasted thirty-odd years and he became Ted Bates right hand man in helping the Saints establish themselves in those early days.

We both parted company with the club, I moved on to be player coach at Hereford United and often called on Bill when I wanted information on a particular player.

His vast knowledge often gave John Sillett and myself the edge in the transfer market.

Living in South Africa I had fewer chances of meeting up with him, but never missed an opportunity when I was visiting Southampton to drop in to see him.

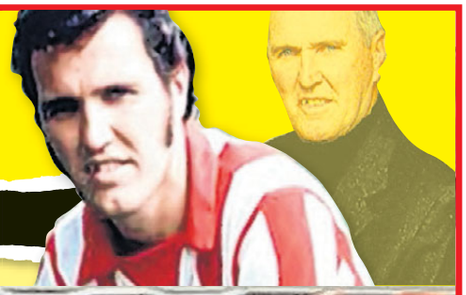
Sadly I will miss those get-togethers.

Bill Ellerington was an absolute gentleman who served Southampton football club with great distinction and could rightly be called a true legend of the game.

MORE BILL ELLERINGTON TRIBUTES - SEE PAGE 10

Paine's World

The Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column on all things football



A STRIKING IMPACT

IT'S usually said that attack is the best form of defence and strikers are always going to agree with that.

This season has seen some really fine attacking displays and, as the contest for Championship top scorer really hots up, who is likely to come out on top?

The real front runner for the golden boot is Ipswich Town's Daryl Murphy who, with five games remaining, has 23 goals, three ahead of Watford's Troy Deeney.

What makes Murphy really stand out is his constancy throughout the season. In fact his longest league 'goal drought' is just four games, and he has scored two goals on five separate occasions.

With only three assists in the League this season, he certainly appears to be more of the finisher than all round striker, but with a scoring record like his no one will complain.

The lack of assists is probably in part due to his inability to really hold the ball up combined with the fact he isn't the strongest passer of the ball. But, at 189cm he has great aerial ability.

This has really been the breakthrough season for Murphy, and it has been a chance for him to really shows what he can do in a good team; he is already ten ahead of last seasons tally.

At 32, Murphy's best chance of returning to the Premier League is definitely through promotion with Ipswich, something that is still not guaranteed.

TOP FLIGHT

One player in the top five who looks likely to be playing in the top flight next season is Norwich City's Cameron Jerome. Of course it wouldn't be Jerome's first taste of the Premier League,

Once touted as a rising star in the game, Jerome struggled to live up to the hype, and he has already matched his previous best when he scored 18 goals for Championship Cardiff City nearly ten years ago. After a somewhat unsuccessful loan spell at Crystal Palace last season (he managed just two goals in 28 appearances), he started this season at newly relegated Norwich. He got off to a good start, scoring five goals in his first six games, before slowing down a little.

Whilst a 20 goals a season striker is hard to come by, a 40 goal pairing is near impossible, and teams that possess such a lethal strike force will always be at the right end of the table. This season, Watford's Troy Deeney and Odion Ighalo are just one goal away from that target. Deeney is definitely a player really on the up. He managed 24 goals last season, in what was a poor year for Watford who finished mid-table. Looking at his form over the past few seasons, it is hardly surprising he is one of the top strikers in the division and, at 26, he really is coming into his prime.

One of the keys to a good partnership is both strikers really contributing, and Deeney has certainly been doing that, coming up with eight assists to go with his 20 goals.

Deeney's finishing is on a par with his passing ability and he really is looking like an all round striker.

His partner in crime, Odion Ighalo, is not quite as accomplished in the assist department, but has still racked up an impressive 19 goals, one behind his team mate.

Ighalo came to Watford on loan at the start of the season, and he is another of those confusing players that seem to move between clubs owned by Gino Pizzo with great ease. It took Ighalo a while to adjust to Championship football, and he managed just three goals in his first 16 league games.

To put this in perspective, he has managed 16 in his last 16 appearances, including four goals in the thrashing of Blackpool.

Rounding out the top five are three players all on 17 goals; Chris Martin (Derby County), Jordan Rhodes (Blackburn Rovers) and Callum Wilson (AFC Bournemouth). Trailing Deeney at the top by six goals so far, it is unlikely that any of these three will top the table, but they do all still have a great chance of hitting 20.

For Wilson, this is particularly impressive after making the jump from League One Coventry City in the close season. Whatever happens with Bournemouth this year, few seem to doubt he will be appearing in the Premier League in the next few seasons.

Both Jordan Rhodes and Chris Martin have continued their fine form from last season. Rhodes in particular has been so consistent over the past few seasons, he may feel summer is the time to move on, especially as there are a large number of clubs interested.

As for Martin, he is a strong attacking player more than capable of holding up the ball. Like Rhodes it is likely that he will have some thinking to do at the end of the season, especially if Derby fail to get promoted again.

A special mention should also go to Benik Afobe, who signed to Wolverhampton Wanderers from Arsenal.

He has struggled to really produce goals on his numerous loan spells, but something has changed this season. So far he has managed ten goals in 22 appearances for Milton Keynes Dons, with a further ten in 16 for Wolves. He is a strong player, good at holding up the ball and getting round defenders and finally improving his finishing means next year could be a big season for him.

Of course, any good player will be far more concerned about team performances and promotion than claiming the golden boot.

But, with most of the top strikers featuring for teams in the promotion hunt, they will be hoping to continue adding to their tally in the remaining games.

FRONT RUNNER: Daryl Murphy

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL NEWS ROUND-UP - BEGINS ON PAGE 12

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2014/15

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST															
Sat 17 Liverpool .....A	**L 1-2**	Forster	**Clyne 1**	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic*	S Davis**	W-Prowse	Pelle	Long*	Isgrove**	
Sat 23 West Brom .....H	**D 0-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Pelle	Long*	Cork**	
Tues 26 Millwall (LC 2) .....A	**W 2-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	S Davis	Wanyama**	Isgrove*	Long***	W-Prowse	**Pelle 1**	Tadic*	**Cork 1****	Ramirez***
Sat 30 West Ham .....A	**W 3-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	**Schneiderlin 2**	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse**	Long*	**Pelle 1**	Ramirez*	Cork**	
SEPTEMBER															
Sat 13 Newcastle .....H	**W 4-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Cork 1*****	**Schneiderlin 1**	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	**Pelle 2**	Wanyama*	W-Prowse**	Gardos***
Sat 20 Swansea .....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida*	Bertrand	Cork**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Tadic	Long	Pelle	Gardos*	S Davis**	**Wanyama 1*****
Tues 23 Arsenal (LC3) .....A	**W 2-1**	Forster	**Clyne 1**	Fonte	Gardos	Targett**	Wanyama	Schneiderin	S Davis	**Tadic 1**	Mane*	Pelle	Long*	Bertrand**	
Sat 27 QPR .....H	**W 2-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	**Bertrand 1**	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic***	Mane*	**Pelle 1**	Long*	Cork**	Targett***
OCTOBER															
Sun 5 Tottenham .....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic	Mane	Pelle	Long*		
Sat 18 Sunderland .....H	**W 8-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Cork 1**	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	**Tadic 1**	Long**	**Pelle 2****	**Wanyama 1***	Mane**	Mayuka***
Sat 25 Stoke .....H	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Tadic	**Mane 1**	Pelle	Wanyama*	Gardos**	
Weds 29 Stoke (LC4) .....A	**W 3-2**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos**	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic	**Long 1**	**Pelle 2**	Cork*	Alderweireld**	
NOVEMBER															
Sat 1 Hull .....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Wanyama 1**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	Pelle	Mane*	Cork**	
Sat 8 Leicester .....H	**W 2-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	S Davis*	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	Cork*	**Long** 2**	Reed***
Mon 24 Aston Villa .....A	**D 1-1**	Forster	**Clyne 1**	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Long**	Tadic	Mane*	Pelle	Mayuka*	Cork**	
Sun 30 Man City .....H	**L 0-3**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin*	S Davis***	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	Yoshida*	Long**	Mayuka***
DECEMBER															
Weds 3 Arsenal .....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Cork*	S Davis	Tadic**	Long***	Pelle	Yoshida*	Mane**	Mayuka***
Mon 8 Man United .....H	**L 1-2**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Wanyama	S Davis	Long**	Tadic*	Mane	**Pelle 1**	Hesketh*	Mayuka**	
Sat 13 Burnley .....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	S Davis	Hesketh*	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	W-Prowse*	Long**	
Tues 16 Sheff Utd (LC5) .....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos	Targett*	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Bertrand	Mane**	Long	Isgrove*	Mayuka**	Alderweireld***
Sat 20 Everton .....H	**W 3-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	**Yoshida 1**	Bertrand	Reed	W-Prowse*	S Davis	Long**	**Pelle 1**	Targett*	Gape**	
Fri 26 Crystal Palace .....A	**W 3-1**	Forster	Clyne***	Gardos	**Alderweireld 1**	Yoshida	**Bertrand 1**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	S Davis*	**Mane 1**	Pelle**	Wanyama*	Long**	McCarthy***
Sat 28 Chelsea .....H	**D 1-1**	Forster	Yoshida**	Fonte	Alderweireld	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Tadic*	**Mane 1**	Pelle	W-Prowse*	Gardos**	Long***
JANUARY															
Thurs 1 Arsenal .....H	**W 2-0**	Forster	Alderweireld	Fonte	Gardos**	Bertrand	Wanyama	S Davis	W-Prowse	**Tadic*** 1**	**Mane* 1**	Pelle	Reed*	Yoshida**	Long***
Sun 4 Ipswich (FAC 3) .....H	**D 1-1**	Forster	W-Prowse	Fonte	Gardos	Bertrand	Wanyama	**Schneiderlin 1**	Long	S Davis	Tadic*	Pelle	Isgrove*		
Sun 11 Man United .....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld*	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	S Davis***	Elia**	Pelle	Gardos*	**Tadic** 1**	Reed***
Weds 14 Ipswich (FAC 3) .....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Garods	Bertrand	Targett	Wanyama*	Reed	W-Prowse	Tadic**	**Long 1**	S Davis*	Pelle**	
Sat 17 Newcastle .....A	**W 2-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos	Bertrand	Reed	S Davis	Tadic**	W-Prowse*	**Elia*** 2**	Pelle	Cork*	Long**	Targett***
Sat 24 Crystal Palace (FAC 4) .H	**L 2-3**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos*	Bertrand	Cork**	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse	Elia	**Pelle 1**	Targett*	Long** ***	Seager***
FEBRUARY															
Sun 1 Swansea .....H	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Reed*	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse	Elia**	Pelle	Mane*	Seager**	
Sat 7 QPR .....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida*	Targett	Wanyama**	S Davis	**Mane 1**	W-Prowse	Elia***	Pelle	Gardos*	Schneiderlin**	Tadic***
Weds 11 West Ham .....H	**D 0-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos	Yoshida	Wanyama	Reed**	Mane***	S Davis	Elia*	Pelle	Tadic*	W-Prowse**	Djuricic***
Sun 22 Liverpool .....H	**L 0-2**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	Wanyama	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Djuricic***	Elia	Pelle	Schneiderlin*	Mane**	Tadic***
Sat 28 West Brom .....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Gardos*	Bertrand	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	Tadic***	Mane	Pelle	Elia*	S Davis**	Long***
MARCH															
Tue 3 Crystal Palace .....H	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	**Mane 1**	Djuricic***	Elia*	Pelle**	Tadic*	Long**	W-Prowse***
Sun 15 Chelsea .....A	**D 1-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	**Tadic** 1**	Mane	S Davis*	Long***	W-Prowse*	Djuricic**	Pelle***
Sat 21 Burnley .....H	**W 2-0**	Forster*	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	S Davis	Schneiderlin	Tadic**	Mane	**Long 1**	Pelle	K Davis*	Wanyama**	
APRIL															
Sat 4 Everton .....A	**L 0-1**	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld***	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Long	W-Prowse**	Elia*	Pelle	Tadic*	Mane**	Djuricic***
Sat 11 Hull .....H															
Sat 18 Stoke .....A															
Sat 25 Tottenham .....H															
MAY															
Sat 2 Sunderland .....A															
Sat 9 Leicester .....A															
Sat 16 Aston Villa .....H															
Sun 24 Man City .....A															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
ARTUR BORUC	0	0	0	0	50	0
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0
KELVIN DAVIS	1(1)	0	0	0	293(2)	0
FRASER FORSTER	30	0	7	0	37	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	18(1)	0
RYAN BERTRAND	27	2	4(1)	0	32(1)	2
MATT TARGETT	3(3)	0	5(1)	0	8(4)	0
JOSE FONTE	30	0	7	0	214(5)	13
FLORIN GARDOS	5(6)	0	6	0	11(6)	0
TOBY ALDERWEIRELD	19	1	0(2)	0	19(2)	1
MAYA YOSHIDA	14(3)	1	1	0	61(4)	3
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
NATHANIEL CLYNE	29	2	6	1	93(5)	5
JACK CORK	5(7)	2	1(3)	1	128(25)	3
HARRISON REED	4(3)	0	1	0	6(10)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	21(2)	3	4	1	225(33)	14
VICTOR WANYAMA	21(6)	3	6	0	47(10)	3
STEVEN DAVIS	27(2)	0	5(1)	0	89(20)	6
LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	1(2)	0	2(4)	0
SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	27(23)	8
DUSAN TADIC	23(6)	4	5(1)	1	28(7)	5
SADIO MANE	17(6)	6	2	0	19(6)	6
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	13(6)	0	5	0	48(36)	1

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
SAM GALLAGHER	0	0	0	0	3(17)	2
SHANE LONG	12(13)	3	5(2)	1	17(15)	4
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0(5)	0	0(1)	0	3(16)	1
GRAZIANO PELLE	30(1)	8	5(1)	4	35(2)	12
JAY RODRIGUEZ	0	0	0	0	59(17)	26
JAKE HESKETH	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
DOMINIC GAPE	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
JASON MCCARTHY	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
ELJERO ELIA	8(1)	2	1	0	9(1)	2
RYAN SEAGER	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0(2)	0
FILIP DJURICIC	1(3)	0	0	0	1(3)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £32,000

or £1,000 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS

CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday 9am, 16 April, 2015
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 18 April or 19 April 2015

Winners

Competition number **S13**

JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS
Mr D Ellen, Durley, Hants
who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

D Baker, Southampton, Hants
J Brent, Southampton, Hants
M Brown, Southampton, Hants
R Corbin, Southampton, Hants
D Court, Southampton, Hants
S Daniels, Waltham Chase, Hants
M Dixon, Southampton, Hants
F Dunn, Southampton, Hants
J Franklin, Southampton, Hants
E Gibson, Durley, Hants
R Haines, Newport, IOW
S Light, Southampton, Hants
B Lowe, Eastleigh, Hants
H Martel, Botley, Hants
W McDonald, Southampton, Hants
J Milsom, Southampton, Hants
H O'Brien, Southampton, Hants
P Rawlings, Chandlers Ford, Hants
S Sturdy, Southampton, Hants
H Wooldridge, Eastleigh, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '& Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy. **14.** If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY

An incident in an Eastleigh v Lincoln match

SAVE POSTAGE
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Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:
Bournemouth Echo 12 noon Tuesday
Southern Daily Echo 12noon Tuesday
Dorset Echo Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
Bournemouth Echo closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo 10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo Closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

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11 April, 2015

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S14

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☐ YES ☐ NO

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☐ 125 CROSSES £2
☐ 200 CROSSES £3
☐ 325 CROSSES £4
☐ 450 CROSSES £5

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Cheques payable to newsquest

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

A remarkable career

LAST Saturday, Saints fans woke to the sad news that club legend Bill Ellerington had passed away at the age of 91.

Ellerington remains one of the club's greatest-ever full backs, scoring 10 goals during his 238-game stint with the club.

He made his debut for his boyhood club at the age of 23 in 1946, against a Newport County side in the FA Cup, ***writes KIERAN ORAM***

The right-back once made the mistake of sporting an open-neck jersey while playing golf ahead of the club's fourth round FA club tie against Newcastle. He subsequently contracted pleurisy, keeping him sidelined for the following two years.

Once recovered, Ellerington quickly forced his way back into the Saints starting 11, earning himself an England cap in May 1949's continental tour.

Bill retired in 1956, leaving behind a lofty legacy as one of the club's finest kickers of the ball.

However, Ellerington's retirement didn't mark the end of his affiliation with the club, and he was duly appointed player-coach by Ted Bates.

Off the field, Ellerington's tasks included scouring the market for top players with the aim of bringing them to the club.

Bill had a keen eye for talent, and is widely credited for bringing young Mick Channon to the club.

During Lawrie McMenemy's FA cup winning reign at the club, the former right back was moved into a scouting role, tasked with providing tactical analysis on Saints' FA Cup final opponents Manchester United.

With the help of Ted Bates, Ellerington was hailed as providing one of the "greatest pieces of tactical scouting" by then player Mick Channon.

Despite the great FA Cup success of 1976, Bill was relieved of his duties during a Mcmenemy reshuffle in 1980.

This ended Ellerington's professional association with the game, leaving his scouting post at the age of 57.

Despite suffering a crippling stroke and heart attack in 2008, Ellerington remained a Southampton enthusiast to the day of his death, often hosting Saints historians and generously affording them access to his vast range of photos and memorabilia.

SAINTS LEGEND: Bill Ellerington

Bill Ellerington will surely go down as one of the club's greatest-ever servants, both on and off the field. His contribution to the club was invaluable and historic: a true Saint.

Some notable games:

Sept 4 1946 – Saints 4, Swansea 0
Sept 71946 – Saints 1, Bury 1

Bill made his league debut for Bill Dodgin's Saints in a comfortable Division Two victory over Swansea.

He then starred in a draw with Bury, showing his notable defensive capabilities.

He had started nervously, failing to make a clearance, which forced George Ephgrave to make a good save from Carter.

However, Ellerington soon got into his stride, denying Bury on several occasions. He tackled Moss as he went through on goal, before another perfectly-timed tackle saved Saints. He was then 'applauded for tackling Carter just at the right time'.

This excellent defending helped earn a point for Saints, who had opened the scoring through Jack Bradley on 16 minutes, before Kilshaw equalised on 68 minutes.

Bill's sterling defensive work, which saw him 'living up to all the good things that have been said about him', helped contribute to a 'well-ordered and formidable' Saints defence that season.

April 15, 1949 – Grimsby 0, Saints 1

Bill was renowned throughout his career as an excellent penalty taker.

But he showed the dangers of messing with a winning formula in a game against Grimsby.

He decided to change his technique after missing a crucial pen against West Ham at the Dell the previous week, changing his preferred side to shoot at from right to left.

After spending 'all the week' thinking about taking a penalty, inevitably he stepped up for another crucial one, in the 89th minute of the game with the score 0-0.

Unfortunately, as Ellerington shaped to kick, he made more contact with the ground than the ball.

Luckily, goalkeeper George Taylor dived the wrong way, and the ball 'trundled away' into the left-hand side of the goal.

Bill had to be carried off the pitch 'with red-hot needles' in his foot from the pain, but he had won the match for Saints.

September 29, 1951 – Birmingham City 1, Southampton 1

Ellerington twice saved the saints in a goalmouth scramble, first heading clear a close-range effort before eventually smothering the ball as it was driven back in.

Ellerington followed this up with a critical third clearance, heading a dangerous ball clear of goal following a Birmingham indirect free kick.

However, Saints were unable to withstand the growing Birmingham pressure, with a fortunate slip allowing Purdon to be put through on goal. One on one with the Saint's keeper, Purdon chose to pull the ball back for Briggs, with the striker finishing low from close range.

The goal made for a frantic final few minutes, with Birmingham pressing for the winner. Ellerington made one final clearance, once again rising highest to thump the ball clear, ensuring a vital first away point of the season.

A giant of the game

A tribute to Bill Ellerington by John Buckle, who played amateur football for Southampton A team under and alongside the Saints legend...

I was first taken to the Dell by my father on the early 1950s. I was about eight years' old, and we were able to stand on the rail, behind the Archer's Road Goal.

I had never seen anything like it, the cheering crowds packed the terraces, it was magic.

During the early part of the game, Saints conceded a corner, and some 12 feet from where we stood, a powerful player with a large number 2 on his shirt took his position by the near post. On asking my father, he told me it was Bill Ellerington, and he plays for England.

Some years later, I was able to join the Saints as an amateur player, but like so many others did not have the skills to make the grade.

During those years Bill Ellerington and George Horsefall were in charge of training and development, and all the lads were referred to by Bill and George as 'Son'.

Bill's understanding of the game was brilliant and he would explain and encourage anyone who asked his advice or sought his views on any aspect of play.

He always wanted to join in the games, with socks around his ankles, shorts and an old track suit top; however he did not suffer fools gladly.

After I had finished playing I lost touch with Bill for some years, by which time he had left the Saints, whom he had served as a 'one club man', both as a player, on the training staff and Chief Scout.

Bill had always been loyal to the Saints, even when Arsenal came calling during his prime playing years.

On my moving back to Southampton, Bill and I resumed our friendship and we saw each other on a regular basis.

Our main topic of conversation was, of course, football, which could go on indefinitely.

Bill had two important aspects to his life, firstly his wife Ros, and their two children, Gail and William, and secondly football.

During this time I got to know Ros well, and Bill frequently would tell anyone present, that marrying Ros was the best days' work he had ever done, which always raised a knowing smile from her who clearly felt the same.

Gail has lived in France for some years and William in London, both running their own businesses.

Over the last few years, Bill had not enjoyed good health, but was always supported so well by his wife Ros, to whom he was married for over 64 years.

At the beginning of each season in the 50s & 60s the Football Echo used to list the Players, their heights and weights.

Bill Ellerington stood 6ft 1in tall and weighed 12 stone. Bill was a 'Big Man' in the world of Football and also in life, generous of spirit and always with the right words to get the best from people, he will be sadly missed.

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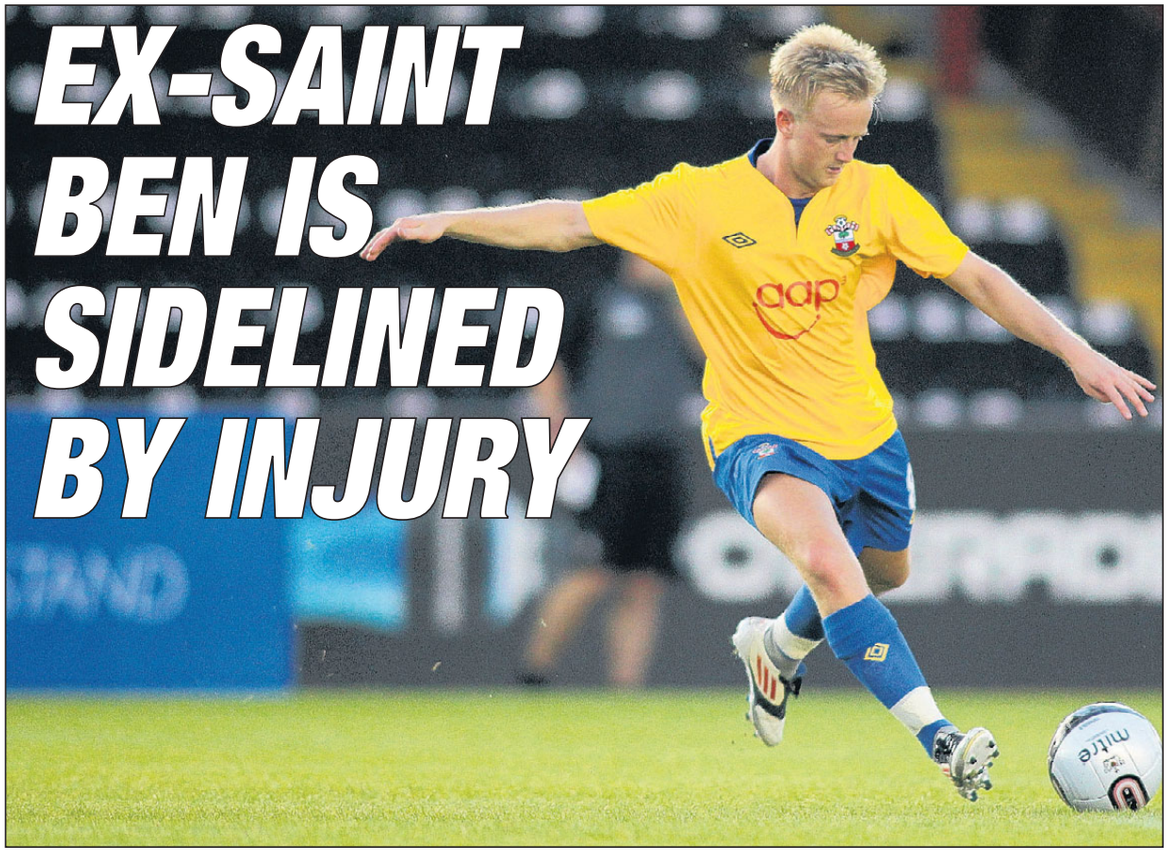

RULED OUT FOR REST OF SEASON: Ben Reeves playing for a Saints XI in 2012

FORMER Saints midfield prospect Ben Reeves will have to watch MK Dons' SkyBet League 1 promotion challenge from the side-lines after being ruled out for the rest of the season with a calf injury.

The Verwood-raised 23-year-old played for Northern Ireland against Scotland last Wednesday, and picked up the injury while away with Michael O'Neill's squad, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY***

Reeves, who made 13 appearances for Saints while Nigel Adkins was manager, found a rich vein of form for Dons of late, scoring four goals in nine games from midfield.

MK Dons manager Karl Robinson said he was "gutted" to have lost Reeves, who joined the Saints Academy as a schoolboy in 2001.

"Ben's a big loss to us. He's really set the world alight recently and was the catalyst for our wins, scoring in the 3-1 victory at Oldham Athletic and shining when we beat Notts County 4-1," Robinson said.

Prior to the untimely injury he picked up midway through the second half of his International debut at Hampden Park, Reeves's 5'7" stature hadn't affected his role in the promotion chasing MK Dons side.

"We've played him a higher number 7 or 10 role coming in off the line, obviously because his physicality makes it difficult for him to play more centrally.

"We find places for talented players and Ben's got that in abundance.

"We're lucky to have him," the manager added.

In his early days at Saints, Reeves was busy helping the Poole & East Dorset team reach the final of the English Schools' FA Under-15 Trophy in 2007.

Ironically, he limped out of the second leg of the final at Dean Court when Poole lost to Worksop & Retford.

He made his 13 Saints appearances in two seasons between 2011 and 2012, scoring in the 4-1 Capital 1 Cup win at Stevenage Town in August 2012.

He subsequently spend a five-match spell on loan to Dagenham & Redbridge, and the following season got valuable pitch time with Sound End United.

But Reeves's game has really taken off since he joined MK Dons, where he was a pivotal part of the squad that is pushing Preston North End hard for the second automatic promotion spot behind champions-in-waiting Bristol City.

Reeves has played over 60 games under Robinson's tutelage, scoring 18 times.

Sadly, he'll play no further part in Dons' promotion push which is shaping up nicely on the back of four straight League 1 victories.

TAKING OFF: Ben Reeves (left) in action for MK Dons

Sherwood sinks his old side...

CHRISTIAN Benteke scored his eighth goal in six games to hand Aston Villa manager Tim Sherwood a winning return to Tottenham.

Sherwood (right), who was relieved of his duties at White Hart Lane at the end of last season, has since taken the job at Villa with the task of keeping them in the Premier League and this victory will go some way to helping him achieve that goal, although the visitors did see Carlos Sanchez sent off late into stoppage time.

Coincidentally, Sherwood's last game in charge of Spurs was a 3-0 win over Villa, and he was on the winning side once more as Benteke headed home 10 minutes before half-time to seal a 1-0 victory.

Yannick Bolasie plundered an 11-minute hat-trick as Crystal Palace boss Alan Pardew masterminded a 4-1 victory at Sunderland.

The DR Congo international struck on 51, 54 and 62 minutes after Glenn Murray had opened the scoring to hand Palace their first ever top-flight win on Wearside.

Connor Wickham's (right) 89th-minute strike proved scant consolation for Sunderland, who remain mired in the relegation battle.

Jamie Vardy's stunning injury-time winner handed basement side Leicester a vital survival lifeline after a 3-2 victory at West Brom.

The striker ran from the halfway line before burying a drive into the corner to close the gap to safety to just three points.

Robert Huth's late header had made it 2-2 after Darren Fletcher and Craig Gardner scored for Albion while David Nugent levelled in the first half before the Foxes' late show.

Swansea equalled their best-ever Premier League points haul of 47 as they fought back to stop Everton's winning run in a feisty 1-1 draw at the Liberty Stadium.

Aaron Lennon (below) gave the visitors a 41st minute lead with his second goal in Everton colours, but Swansea equalised after 69 minutes when Seamus Coleman's handball was spotted by referee Michael Oliver and Jonjo Shelvey scored with a firm spot-kick.

Marko Arnautovic's dramatic stoppage-time equaliser earned Stoke a 1-1 draw at West Ham.

The Hammers looked to have done enough to battle to victory after taking an early lead through a superb free-kick by full-back Aaron Cresswell.

However, after seeing two efforts from Arnautovic ruled out for offside and a header by substitute Mame Diouf hit the post, the visitors snatched a point deep into stoppage time when the Austrian forward crashed the ball into the far corner.

TWENTY PAGES OF CRICKET STARTS ON PAGE 15

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Alex is vote winner

SHOLING's Alex Sawyer has been crowned supporters' player-of-the-year at the Evo-Stik South & West club.

The 22-year-old, pictured below, one of a long line of home-grown talent to grace Portsmouth Road, has let his football do the talking in the Boatmen's midfield engine room.

Now fans have recognised his contribution by voting him as the outstanding player of 2014/15, narrowly ahead of versatile defender TJ Cuthbertson and third-placed Dan Miller.

Sholing, who will hold their presentation night on May 9, are on the lookout for pre-season friendlies. Contact secretary Greg Dickson on 07948 832944 or at *secretary@sholingfc.com*.

Ban's bad for Sills

TIM Sills have voiced his frustration at having to serve a three-match ban at such a crucial period in Weymouth's Southern Premier promotion campaign.

The experienced ex-Basingstoke and Gosport marksman was unavailable on Easter Monday as the Terras fell 2-0 at Truro City.

With Weymouth's play-off hopes now hanging in the balance, Sills admitted: "It's never nice to miss games for any reason, especially when it's at such a crucial stage of the season and we are in desperate need of points.

"We need to make sure we are fully focussed for the last four games and see if we can scrape our way into the play-offs. Then it becomes a lottery and hopefully we can recapture some early-season form."

Williams wins praise from rival manager

BRETT Williams earned high praise from the manager after a virtuoso performance for Aldershot Town at Forest Green Rovers last Friday.

But it wasn't his own boss singing the praises of the former Eastleigh marksman, it was opposition manager Ady Pennock who had just seen his side's play-off hopes dented 3-1 by the Williams-inspired Shots.

Three goals in a stunning eight-minute second-half spell brought Aldershot back from a goal down at The New Lawn, virtually assuring them of Vanarama Conference survival.

And it was 27-year-old Williams, pictured, who got the comeback started, cashing in on miscommunication in the FGR defence to meet Jordan Roberts' cross with a hooked volley.

Pennock admitted afterwards: "I thought the lad (Brett) Williams was fantastic all game.

"That was the best centre-forward performance I've seen. I think he was the difference."

Aldershot kept up the good work on Easter Monday. A 2-0 home win over Torquay United – combined with Eastleigh's 2-1 victory at lowly Welling United - ensured they would live to fight another season in non-League's top flight.

Caretaker Shots boss Chris Barker beamed: "We've had two massive wins over the weekend to get six points and I'm very proud of the boys for turning the season around."

Forest Green atoned for Friday's sins by beating Chester 4-1 away on Monday to maintain their two-point lead over Eastleigh in the race for fifth spot – albeit that they have played a game more than Richard Hill's Spitfires.

Ex-Salisbury man Elliott Frear and former Saint Aarran Racine both scored for FGR along with brace man Jon Parkin.

CHAMPS TO FINISH WITH DELL AND ST MARY'S SHOWDOWNS

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

NEWLY-CROWNED Sydenhams One champions Team Solent have just two fixtures left to play this season – one at The Dell and one at St Mary's.

The Dell – home of Laverstock & Ford – will stage their final game of a triumphant league campaign on Saturday, April 25.

And, four days later, James Taylor's men will be targeting a second piece of silverware at St Mary's in the Southampton Senior Cup final against Hamble Club.

Team Solent wrapped up the league title with a game to spare on Tuesday, edging Ringwood Town 1-0 in a tetchy, untidy affair at Long Lane.

It wasn't the most commanding of performances from the Southampton Solent University side but, come the final whistle, nobody really cared.

A 22nd-minute goal from new boy Pedro De Carvalho was enough to take them out of reach of chasing Tadley Calleva – and get the celebrations started!

"It wasn't the greatest of games, but the result was all mattered," smiled manager Taylor, pictured left, afterwards.

"It's been a great season for us.

"We lost our first three games and to turn it round and win the league is an amazing achievement.

"It's been a special effort by these lads.

"We've played some amazing football at times and learned to grind out results in some of the tougher games.

"Tonight was pretty uneventful to be honest, but it's nice to have got the title."

With several students still away for Easter, Solent were seven players short, including in-form midfield goalscorer Jermal Frederick.

But recent signing De Carvalho came up with the goods when it mattered, choosing the perfect time to net his first ever goal for his new club.

Skipper Jesse Waller-Lassen powered his way to the byline and smacked the ball across for the former Romsey Town man to bury it at the far post.

"We signed Pedro about three weeks ago from Romsey," Taylor explained.

"One of our lads knew him and asked him to come to training, he signed and he's done really well.

"He not a Solent student, I think he goes to Bournemouth University."

The lessons Solent have learned this season should serve them well in the Sydenhams top flight next term.

"We're not losing many players and there will be a new (student) intake in September, so we should have a competitive side," said Taylor.

"We've got a few weeks off now before we play Laverstock and it would be nice if we could do the double at St Mary's."

What they tweeted:

East Cowes Vics: Congratulations to @TeamSolentSport on winning the @SydWessex division one title

Fleet Town: Big well done to James Taylor! Good friend of our manager and our club in general. #congratulations #Supes

Sam Byles: After a long and hard season, we finally won the league! Congrats to all the lads. Great feeling! #Winners#Promotion@TeamSolentSport

Ringwood Town: Congratulations to @TeamSolentSport on clinching the @SydWessex division one title tonight

Hythe & Dibden: Congratulations to @TeamSolentSport best team in the league and the table shows it. All the best in the prem next season. #H&D

Tadley Calleva: Congratulations to @TeamSolentSport on winning the Wessex League 1 title tonight. Best of luck in the Premier League next season

Jake Swift: WE ARE GOING UP! Get in there boys! League won with a game left! Quality season and to top it off a St Mary's final! @TeamSolentSport

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD – SEE PAGE 40

Non-league Football

BEST IN THE LEAGUE

Burnet hails Bentley's 'phenomenal' goals record

53-GOAL SEASON: Warren Bentley.

GLENN Burnett has seen some deadly Wessex League marksmen in his time.

But, in his book, there is no one on the Sydenhams circuit right now to rival the finishing prowess of Winchester City's Warren Bentley.

Having topped the Sydenhams Premier goal charts for Alresford Town last season, Bentley's relentless hunger for goals has showed no signing of waning since he swapped the black and white of the Mapgies for Winchester's red and black last summer, ***writes WENDY GEE***.

He weighed in with another three on Monday as his old club were swept aside 5-1 at the Denplan City Ground, making it 53 goals scored in all competitions.

Bentley opened his account from the penalty spot after Charlie Smeeton had been brought down by Craig Bryant and then expertly doubled his tally shortly before half-time after Zach Glasspool had pulled the ball back from the byline.

Luke Dempsey headed in City's third from a Glasspool corner and, after Andy Turner had hit back for the Mapgies following a superb solo run, Bentley duly completed his treble with a goal straight out of the top drawer.

He beat a couple of defenders as he drifted into the area and unleashed a superb, curling strike with the outside of his right boot.

Job done, Bentley went off for a well-earned rest. But if Alresford thought that would be the end of their problems, they thought wrong.

Bentley's replacement Liam Robinson scored with his first touch after good work from Micky Hubbard, who impressed in midfield alongside Stuart Green.

Summing up what Bentley brings to Winchester, assistant boss Burnett said: "I haven't seen a better goal scorer than Warren, he does it every single week.

"His movement's fantastic and he has such a good relationship with Zach Glasspool. They're very clever footballers and, at this level, they're the best pair there is in and around the box. They complement each other so well and some of the goals have been breathtaking.

"I've lost count of the goals that Warren and Zach have either scored or played a big part in this season.

"Warren's got 53 himself and that's a phenomenal return from any striker."

The pity for City's ex-Alresford contingent is that, for a third season running, they are destined to finish as Sydenhams Premier bridesmaids.

After being part of the Mapgies side that finished runners-up to Blackfield & Langley in 2012/13 and Sholing last season, Bentley, Glasspool & Co. will almost certainly be second again this year, this time behind top-flight new boys Petersfield Town who needed a win today to clinch the crown.

Considering Winchester changed managers mid-season, they have done well to keep the title pot boiling into the last three games.

But, hand on heart, Burnett believes it would have been a closer fight had the current management team, led by ex-Saints reserves midfielder Paul Masters, had the benefit of a full season – plus pre-season – in charge.

"I've said to Paul (Masters) many times that if we'd had a pre-season and if the group of players we've got together now had been here throughout the whole season, I really do think we could have made a big impression on this league," said Burnett.

"Over the season Petersfield have been outstanding.

"We've been looking for them to slip up and, if they had, we'd have been ready to pounce, but they haven't and no one can take that away from them.

"What Petersfield have achieved is amazing – but we're also proud of what we've done at Winchester.

"We've got a great group of players here all pulling in the right direction and we've been banging out some remarkable results to keep us in the top-two.

"Not only that, anyone who's turned up to watch us has seen a proper game of football.

"We play football the right way, it's entertaining and a joy to watch, and when we've come up against higher standard teams like Gosport Borough, we've played well.

"We haven't had the privilege of a whole season plus pre-season which gives you a bit of an edge, but it's all very positive going forward. There's plenty to build on."

Hammers chairman to stand down at end of season

HAMWORTHY United chairman Mark Bartlett will stand down at the end of the current Sydenhams Premier Division campaign.

The 48-year-old believes the club should seek fresh blood to replace him.

Bartlett is set to relinquish the role after the final game of his first season in charge due to work commitments.

He will, however, retain his place on the seven-strong committee at the County Ground.

Bartlett insisted his decision had been made with "a very heavy heart" but said his new job would make it impossible to commit sufficient time to United's cause.

"A change in my day job means I will be travelling a lot more and I do not believe in doing the chairman's role half-heartedly," he said.

"It has been a fairly stressful year with two managers departing, but I have still loved every minute of it and am incredibly disappointed not to be finishing the job I started.

"The ship is steady and nobody is panicking.

"Everybody dreams of a sugar daddy, but there are not that many around and they probably would want to look at a club further up the leagues.

"My advice would be to advertise the role, but where any new person would come from I'm not sure."

The tenth-placed Hammers made it seven points from their last three league games on Monday by beating Verwood Town 4-0.

Dan Smith, Jack Satterley, Kane Daysh and sub Oliver Clayton were on target.

Non-league News

Kicked out of cup final

BINSTEAD COB FC have been kicked out of the Hampshire Junior A Cup final.

The side were due to take on Ryde Saints in a rare all-Isle of Wight final at St George's Park, Newport, on April 18.

However, in a report submitted to Hampshire FA, it was revealed Binstead's player, Jack Morris, sat on the bench for a Somerset-based team in FA Cup and FA Vase games last season.

This made him ineligible for Hampshire Cup competitions this year.

A Binstead COB spokesperson said: "Binstead, as a club, never knew this information, with Jack playing the majority of matches this season for us.

"The club also spent £800 travelling in the cup this season, so it has been costly on all scales.

"Jack has played for us for three years and is an honest and dedicated player. Jack never realised the extent of his playing level outside of Hampshire, and the impact it could have."

League name change

THE Football Conference is to be renamed The Vanarama National League as from June 6.

The league is being rebranded to underline the competition's status at the pinnacle of the semi-professional game.

Brian Barwick, pictured below, the incoming VNL chairman, said: "I am delighted to be joining at this vibrant time with this exciting new branding.

"I look forward to steering this great competition to new levels of awareness and visibility."

BT Sport, meanwhile, have agreed a new three-year television deal. Along with live match coverage, there will be a regular weekly highlights show screened on Sunday evenings.

GO TO dailyecho.co.uk FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Sydenhams starlet signs for Reading

SYDENHAMS League starlet Andy Rinomhota has been officially unveiled as a Reading player.

The 17-year-old midfielder was talent-ed-spotted by the Royals following some impressive performances for Graham Rix's AFC Portchester in the Wessex Premier Division.

The youngster successfully trained with Reading for a number of weeks and played for their Academy.

He impressed sufficiently to land himself a two-year contract for the SkyBet Championship club with the option of a further 12 months.

Acknowledging Portchester's help in getting the deal completed, Reading's director of football Nick Hammond said: "I would like to thank Portchester chairman Paul Kelly and manager Graham Rix for all their help and the manner in which they have handled negotiations.

"Andy is a dynamic young midfielder, a good character from a good family and this is one of those deals we always like here at Reading.

"The boy is desperate to do well and we're delighted to have him here."

With the exception of two seasons, Rinomhota had been at Wicor Rec since he was seven years old and had gone from playing under the management of club stalwart Simon Woods at youth team level to playing alongside him in the first team.

More recently he had the privilege of learning his trade under Portchester boss Rix, the former England and Arsenal star, who he thanked for making his dream move possible.

Rix said: "Andy has totally deserved this opportunity. He is everything that AFC Portchester are about, giving lads the opportunity to play football, improve and move to a higher level.

"I know he is joining a good club with good people at Reading and I'm certain he will do everything possible to make his dreams come true.

"Everyone at AFC Portchester wishes Andy the best of luck."

Gos still in the hunt

GOSPORT Borough are still in the Conference South promotion hunt, albeit that they have a fight on their hands for fifth spot.

Ex-Saint Tom Dunford kept them on track with a 76th-minute equaliser in last Saturday's 1-1 home draw with Weston-super-Mare.

But Borough were pushed down into sixth spot on Monday following Whitehawk's 2-0 defeat of Hayes & Yeading.

Manager Alex Pike was disappointed to let two points slip against Weston, but insisted: "I'm not going to let this season go flat. We will fight for every win possible."

Borough were due to host St Albans today before they visit Bishops Stortford next Saturday (April 18).

Their final game of the regular league season brings title-chasing Bromley to Privett Park on April 25.

WALLS HAVE EARS! HILL S AND DISRESPECTFUL" W

Wings were the 'bullies', not us, claims furious Eastleigh boss

ON TARGET: Eastleigh's Jai Reason, centre, netted in the victory over Welling.

RICHARD Hill has rubbished Welling United claims that Eastleigh "bullied" their way to three points at Park View Road on Easter Monday.

The match report on the Wings' official website described the Spitfires as "bruising and at times bullying" in their pursuit of a 2-1 win that kept them on the brink of the Vanarama Conference play-offs.

But having overheard some of Welling's pre-match team talk, Hill, pictured below, has turned the tables on the Greater London outfit, claiming it was them – not Eastleigh – who went out with the specific game plan of getting stuck into the opposition.

"The bully became the bullied!" he said.

"The walls at their ground are like cardboard and I could hear what was being said in their dressing room after I'd sent our lads out to warm up at ten past two.

"I could hear them being told to have a right go and really get into us because, if they did, we would lose our discipline.

"He told them we were prima donnas who are only concerned about our own egos and don't want to work hard.

"They were told to get stuck into us early so we'd lose our discipline and that we would lose it even more if the manager (Hill) started getting on at us.

"I wrote all this down on the board in the dressing room and then I've read the report of the match from their end and all they're doing is moaning about how we've bullied them!

"Well, no, that's what they tried to do to us. We didn't bully them, they set out to try and intimidate us. Like I say, the bully became the bullied!"

Professing himself "disgusted" by Welling's attitude towards his side, Hill said: "It's rude and disrespectful to players like James Constable, Brian Howard and so on.

"It's also disrespectful to Richard Hill to imply that I'm the sort of manager who will shout at my players and make them worse.

"I hope Loui Fazakerley (Welling manager) has a good career ahead of him but, at the moment, he can only wish to be on the coaching side for as long as I've been.

"I found Welling's approach quite insulting to my players."

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Whatever the Wings' game plan, it didn't produce the desired result as goals by Jai Reason and Jamie Turley ensured Eastleigh brought the points back to Hampshire.

"My lads were absolutely brilliant," said Hill.

"Welling are fighting for their lives and it's not a nice place to go. The pitch is rubbish and even worse at this time of year, all bobbly with hardly any grass.

"Had we not worked hard and kept our discipline, we would have got beat, but we didn't.

"Welling scored from a corner after one of the worst offside decisions I've never seen given. It was embarrassing how far offside it was.

"That was another thing we had to contend with, but in the second half there was only ever one team in it."

"The walls at their ground are like cardboard and I could hear what was being said in their dressing room. "I could hear them being told to have a right go and really get into us because, if they did, we would lose our discipline. "He told them we were prima donnas who are only concerned about our own egos and don't want to work hard."

RICHARD HILL

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NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? EMAIL WE

Non-league Football

SLAMS "RUDE ELLING

n star Cornick sends Hawks soaring

R Christchurch ark Harry Cornick red Havant & ville to the brink of erence South play-

returning to the n loan from AFC outh, the fit-again n, pictured, has in with three price- s in two Easter vic-

k struck twice last as Lee Bradbury's e back from behind at Staines Town. he former Poole r School student electric form once Monday when Bath put to the sword 2- leigh Park. didn't go to script ase O'Neill's 14th- opener plunged o arrears at rock- taines.

It's fair to say that Cornick didn't know too much about the equaliser, with defender Darren Purse's header from Scott Donnelly's corner going in off his back.

But on 66 minutes the young Cherries prospect showed what his game is all about. Picking the ball up in his own half, he outpaced two defenders before calmly beating the 'keeper.

Cornick – who turned 20 this week – turned on the class once more against Bath after Scott Donnelly had put Hawks ahead with a long-range drive.

A constant threat with his pace down the left, he made sure of the points on 74 minutes, working his way across the area before picking out the bottom corner.

The fourth-placed Hawks had no match today, but manager Bradbury reckons a point from their last two games – Basingstoke Town (away, April 18) and Whitehawk (home, April 25) – will see them safely into the play-offs.

"Ideally we can go on and win the last two games and see where it takes us," he added.

"All the time it is possible we can win the title, we will keep going for it."

Bristow tells Basingstoke to take title fight to wire

BASINGSTOKE Town boss Jason Bristow is determined to make sure the Vanarama Conference South title race goes down to the wire.

Two wins over the Easter period saw third-placed Town move to within two points of joint leaders Boreham Wood and Bromley, making them one of four teams in with a realistic chance of winning the league.

Bromley are the odds-on favourites and, going into today's round of matches, were the only side to hold their destiny in their own hands.

Boreham Wood and Havant & Waterlooville are also in the hunt and Bristow, pictured, wants to make sure his side are ready to pounce if Bromley make a mistake.

"We need to make sure that we are not kicking ourselves if Bromley do slip up," he said. "The worst thing that could happen is if we lose and then find out that Bromley have dropped points as well.

"It could go down to the last game and, if it does, then we will have done our job. We want to be in with a chance going into that final game."

'FANTASTIC POSITION'

Bristow added: "It's great that we are approaching this stage of the season with so much still at stake and it's a credit to the squad of players who have put themselves in such a fantastic position."

Basingstoke certainly did things the hard way at Hayes & Yeading last Saturday, clinching a 1-0 victory with nine men.

Ex-Eastleigh midfielder Shaun McAuley and Liam Enver-Marum were sent off within ten second half minutes of each other, but Stoke still managed to dig out an 85th-minute winner.

McAuley got his 65th-minute marching orders for a flailing arm and Enver-Marum quickly followed for kicking out at 'keeper Grant Smith following a collision – albeit that no contact was made.

But, against the odds, the nine men earned a penalty when Flood went down under Smith's rash lunge and the former Eastleigh and Winchester City forward proved deadly from the spot, netting his 13th league goal of the season.

"Once we were reduced to nine men, I felt comfortable we would not concede as we train for instances like that," said Bristow.

"We have good experience and knowledge on the pitch to keep our structure and we could have scored a second goal when Chris Flood went on a mazy run and was unfortunate not to hit the net."

Basingstoke kept up the good work on Monday with a hard-earned 3-1 win over struggling north Hampshire neighbours Farnborough, courtesy of Simon Dunn, Enver-Marum (penalty) and Lloyd Macklin.

Non-league News

Town win not a shock

STUART Heath insists Dorchester Town's triumph over high-riding Poole Town on Easter Monday was not the shock people might think.

Although few would have tipped lower-half Dorch to beat their title-chasing neighbours, the Magpies' head coach wasn't one of them.

Admitting it did not come as too much of a surprise when Nick Crittenden popped up with a second-half winner at The Avenue, Heath said: "It didn't show us anything we didn't already know, which was that we can compete with the top sides.

"We have done that over the last few months at places like Truro, Corby and Hungerford, it was just a case of doing it at home against Poole and playing to our potential.

"I thought the overall performance was outstanding and we were brilliant defensively against a side which I still think will win the league."

Whether Poole will top the Southern Premier is now in the balance, however, following a third straight loss.

Prior to the Dorchester defeat, Tom Killick's side crashed 1-0 at Chippenham last Saturday with ex-Eastleigh marksman Ashan Holgate inflicting the damage.

And it got worse still for the Dolphins on Wednesday at Cirencester Town, where two Richard Gillespie goals were not enough to ward off a 3-2 defeat.

Going into today's home game against Hitchin, Poole had slipped five points behind leaders Corby Town with two games in hand.

Homegrown stars

TWO of the area's best sources of homegrown talent will go head-to-head in the Wyvern League's John Stimpson Memorial Shield final next month.

AFC Totton and Sholing reserves will do battle for silverware at Romsey Town's Bypass Ground on Monday, May 11.

Richie Hayter's Stags were the first to book their place in the final, beating Winchester City 4-2 on Tuesday.

It was a sparkling night for under-16 striker Matty Brewer, who led the way with a hat-trick, and a proud occasion for young skipper Jake Rawkins who had played 45 minutes of Southern League football at Fleet Town the previous day.

Sholing, already through to the final of the Wyvern Challenge Cup, booked their ticket to Romsey with a 5-2 win over Verwood Town on Wednesday.

The Boatmen slipped 2-0 down, but hit back through Karl Littleboy, Josh Oxlade, Elliot Richards (pen), Serge Fon and Coby Wilson.

Wilson was also on the scoresheet, along with Connor Bloomfield, for the Boatmen's 2-0 Challenge Cup success over AFC Portchester.

Sholing will face Petersfield Town in the final at the Denplan City Ground, home of Winchester City, on Wednesday, May 6.

The Boatmen will spare a thought that night for unfortunate teammate Macaully Smith, whose knee buckled badly after he had gone up for a header against Portchester, causing suspected kneecap and ligament damage.

NDY GEE AT wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

20-page guide to the 2015 season

CELEBRATION TIME: The victorious Hampshire team and staff with the trophy after winning the Division Two Championship last September.

WILL IT BE ANOTHER CHAMPAGNE SEASON FOR HAMPSHIRE?

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

THERE is much to look forward to as Hampshire prepare for the start of their first season back in division one of the LV County Championship.

After a four-year absence, Hampshire are back where they belong after winning the second division title in Cardiff on the final day of last season.

From May 1, they will be playing their home matches against the backdrop of the completed Ageas Bowl hotel, a stage that will also be the setting for England one-day internationals in the series against World Cup finalists New Zealand (June 14) and Australia (September 3).

On the domestic front, Hampshire will be bidding to add to their silverware haul by winning a sixth trophy in seven seasons.

They can set a new record by reaching T20 Blast Finals Day for the sixth successive season and in former West Indies Test star Fidel Edwards, they have an exciting overseas signing for the 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup, which starts in July.

It promises to be a particularly big season for home-grown James Vince, who will captain Hampshire in both limited-overs competitions. A good start to the season would also put him in serious contention for an England call-up.

Benks gives squad seal of approval

Pages 16-17

Adams ready to prove himself again

Pages 18-19

Poster-sized portrait of the squad

Pages 24-25

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET – THE LAST 40 YEARS IN THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

1974

A year after Hampshire last won the Championship, finishing 31 points in front of runners-up Surrey, they came second – just two points adrift of title winners Worcestershire. Barry Richards was the only player to pass 1,000 Championship runs while Andy Roberts bagged 111 wickets.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Barry Richards	16	23	4	1059	225*	55.73	2	6
David Turner	19	26	1	898	152	35.92	3	4
Richard Gilliat	19	26	2	882	106	36.75	1	7
Gordon Greenidge	19	28	1	700	120	25.92	1	5
Peter Sainsbury	19	24	7	535	98	31.47	0	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Andy Roberts	111	8-47	13.45	6
Robert Herman	70	6-15	17.40	3
Michael Taylor	63	6-26	17.47	3
Peter Sainsbury	33	4-30	19.72	0
Trevor Jesty	22	4-47	28.18	0

1975

Barry Richards was top runscorer again as Hampshire finished third behind champions Leicestershire.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Barry Richards	18	30	4	1456	135*	56	3	11
Richard Gilliat	19	32	3	1294	113	44.62	3	9
Gordon Greenidge	15	25	0	1033	259	41.32	2	3
David Turner	18	30	1	955	150*	32.93	2	7
Peter Sainsbury	18	29	3	775	105	29.8	1	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Andy Roberts	57	6-69	14.49	4
Trevor Jesty	49	6-40	19.12	2
Peter Sainsbury	49	5-48	21.55	2
John Rice	48	4-33	25.06	0
John Southern	41	6-46	25.75	2

1976

Barry Richards was leading runscorer as Hampshire faded away from previous years to finish 12th.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Barry Richards	18	34	2	1572	179	49.12	7	3
David Turner	20	38	5	1252	130*	37.93	3	5
Trevor Jesty	20	37	3	1211	159*	35.61	2	6
Richard Gilliat	20	37	1	988	130	27.44	3	5
John Rice	19	33	2	508	73	16.38	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Peter Sainsbury	66	8-114	18.72	4
John Southern	56	5-79	32.64	1
Trevor Jesty	39	7-75	27.87	3
John Rice	38	3-46	37.13	0
Michael Taylor	31	5-24	29.29	1

1977

Gordon Greenidge topped the runscorers list as Hampshire finished 11th with Kent and Middlesex declared joint champions – the last instance this happened.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	19	32	3	1771	208	61.06	6	6
Trevor Jesty	21	34	3	1230	144	39.67	4	5
Barry Richards	16	25	3	927	115	42.13	2	5
Nigel Cowley	18	27	8	687	109*	36.15	1	6
David Turner	18	29	2	567	69	21	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
John Southern	53	6-81	31.32	2
John Rice	44	7-48	29.4	2
Mike Taylor	42	7-23	27.3	1
Andy Roberts	40	5-32	19.82	2
Nigel Cowley	29	5-94	38.79	1

1978

Gordon Greenidge was easily top runscorer as Hampshire finished eighth, Kent the champions outright.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	18	32	1	1711	211	55.19	5	8
David Turner	21	39	3	981	148*	27.25	1	2
Trevor Jesty	21	39	4	897	125*	25.62	4	0
Mike Taylor	20	28	9	770	103*	40.52	1	6
Nigel Cowley	21	36	4	628	64	19.62	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
John Southern	72		24.8	4
Nigel Cowley	52		30.07	1
Keith Stevenson	47		31.38	2
Andy Roberts	27		22.85	1
John Rice	23		27.26	0

1979

Keith Stevenson was top wicket-taker as Hampshire finished 12th in the season Essex first won the Championship.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	17	30	2	1404	145	50.14	3	8
Trevor Jesty	18	33	3	1025	76	34.16	0	9
John Rice	21	38	3	804	84*	22.97	0	3

Continued on facing page

BENKS GIVES HAMPSHIRE

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

THERE is no one on the Hampshire staff who knows more about the LV County Championship's first division than Dale Benkenstein.

Hampshire's first-team coach, pictured below, captained Durham to the first of their three Championship titles in 2008 so is relishing his return to the top-flight in the second year of what is still a relatively new role for the 40-year-old at The Ageas Bowl.

"I still think Test cricket in England is very strong and the first division has a lot to do with it," he said. "It's a good competition, there are no weak teams.

"They don't just have four good bowlers, they have six or seven as well as eight or nine good batters.

"But if you look at our line up we're not dissimilar and lot of our players have a lot to gain from doing well this season.

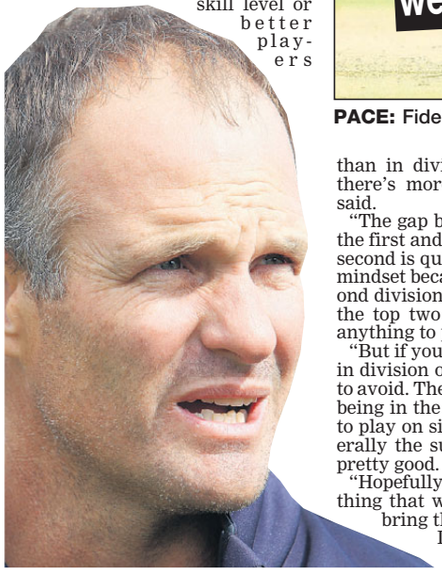
"Players like James Vince, Liam Dawson and Danny Briggs are on the stage that everyone is looking at when it comes to playing for England.

BULLISH

"And we actually have a chance of winning the Championship, which we haven't done for more than 40 years."

It bodes well that Benkenstein speaks so bullishly about Hampshire's chances, following the division two title success of last season.

"Naturally, the cricket's going to be harder but I don't think it's a case of a better skill level or better players than in division two, I just think there's more on every game," he said.



PACE: Fidel Edwards, right.

"The gap between the top sides in the first and the bottom sides in the second is quite big but a lot of it is a mindset because if you're in the second division and you can't finish in the top two you don't really have anything to play for.

"But if you're in the same position in division one you have relegation to avoid. The other good thing about being in the first division is getting to play on six Test grounds, so generally the surfaces are going to be pretty good.

"Hopefully the step up is something that will lift our players and bring the best out in them."

Despite losing Matt Coles and Kyle Abbott, Hampshire have managed to maintain the strength their attack since the title triumph in Cardiff on the final day of last season.

Jackson Bird and Fidel Edwards will share the overseas slot vacated by Abbott, while 39-year-old Andre Adams and 18-year-old Brad Wheal are short term and long-term additions.

"We've got pretty much everything we need but that's the easy part – now we have to go out and perform on the field," said Benkenstein. "We'll only really know where we are in the next couple of weeks.

"But we're not just focused on red-ball cricket, white-ball cricket is at the heart of this club."

Bird, Adams and Wheal both played in this week's friendly against Kent. Of the new seam quartet, Edwards is the most recent signing and will arrive in late July, to play in the Royal London One Day Cup and, all being well, the last five Championship matches.

His availability came to Hampshire's attention during last month's training trip to Barbados.

REAL PACE

"Jackson Bird isn't the slowest and Andre Adams is a really good pro who I know well, but when I look at our attack what's missing is some real pace – and at his best Fidel is one of the quickest in the world," said continued Benkenstein, who faced Edwards in his pomp back in 2004. He made 39

HAMPSHIRE 2015 TEAM POSTER – SEE CENTRE PAGES

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

SQUAD SEAL OF APPROVAL

EXPERIENCED: Danny Briggs, top right.
Picture courtesy of Robin Jones

for the MCC against the Windies at Arundel. "It wasn't nice!" he said. "Consistently he hasn't been the world's best but when he's been good he's been up there with his pace, definitely.

"The West Indies seem to have abandoned him but he bowled really well against us last month. He's a little bit like Malinga, he comes from very low. He's just different which can be a real advantage."

Having also seen Edwards take 8-40 against Nottinghamshire for the Combined Campuses and Colleges in Barbados last month, Benkenstein is confident the 33-year-old still has plenty to offer.

"It's always a bit of a risk with fast bowlers and he's a little bit of an unknown. But getting him over is a start and he looks really fit. If we can get him anywhere near his best he's going to be a handful.

"He's still got good control and has learnt how to bowl. And if we want him to bowl quick in short bursts we have that option."

Edwards' only cricket commitment before his arrival at Hampshire is with St Lucia Zouks in the Caribbean Premier League in June.

ADVANTAGE

Benkenstein reckons that is an advantage.

"He hasn't been playing much cricket which is a good thing. His white-ball skills are very good and he'll join us fresh right at the beginning of the 50-over comp when some of the bowlers will have had three months of hard work.

"He hasn't being playing Test match after Test match and will come off the CPL so he's not going to be under done."

If all goes well, Edwards could be back at Hampshire next season.

"He may be back with us for a couple of years, that's what he wants to do," confirmed Benkenstein.

It would be no surprise if teenage fast bowler Brad Wheal has made his first-team debut by the time Edwards arrives, given the impression he has made in pre-season.

Brought over from South Africa on a development contract after being spotted by Benkenstein playing for Natal U19s, the British passport holder aims to qualify for England in the next seven years.

"He's impressing every day," enthused Benkenstein. "A few eyebrows were raised in practice this week, he's not done himself any harm.

"He had a chance to go to Surrey but I nicked him off [Surrey coach] Graham Ford, who knows him best – I only met him this year so he's a bit of an unknown, even to me.

"What I've seen of him in South Africa is there's very little that can go wrong with his action.

"It's very natural and he really wanted to play cricket in England and he doesn't want to play for South Africa.

"He sees more opportunities for him here and he's right."

"He's had big decisions to make but is very clear what he wants to do and we don't have many local bowlers coming through.

"We want to give him that opportunity."

Wheal impressed in taking two wickets in this week's friendly against Kent.

"He was also excellent in Barbados," continued Benkenstein. "His basics are very good, he doesn't bowl many bad balls and is not a number 11 – he's got some ability with the bat.

"But he's still only 18."

Hampshire are not averse to giving debuts to teenagers, but there are other options post-Coles.

"Colesy's efforts on the field were incredible but as a group you only need to put a few percentages together to make up the percentages lost to fill that hole quite easily," said Benkenstein.

DEPTH

"There's depth there. Chris Wood wasn't available [this time] last year and Gareth Berg gives me the option of balancing the team out nicely.

"Colesy's batting was hit and miss but Woody and Gareth are proper batters and will probably give me more consistent runs.

"Woody showed last year that he's pretty much a strike bowler. I need to look after him, we have to be aware of his knee and Gareth hasn't played for a year so we probably wouldn't have them for the rest of the season if we were to play either of them in every game for the first six weeks.

"But they're ready to go. If I can mix the two of them as one player we'll get them through the whole season and we've got Yasir Arafat as well.

"We're also one of the few clubs with two very good spinners [in slow left-armers Danny Briggs and Liam Dawson].

"They're experienced players now, they're not just youngsters. They made huge strides last year, playing a big role on the fourth day of games, and we're expecting them to improve this year.

"They've still got a lot to learn but if we keep them going that really balances our team off properly."

From facing page

David Turner	20	36	1	766	129	21.88	1	3
Nigel Cowley	21	36	6	523	85	17.43	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Keith Stevenson	61	5-30	23.91	3
Malcolm Marshall	46	5-56	20.8	1
Nigel Cowley	37	5-44	32	1
John Southern	28	6-81	29.6	1
Mike Taylor	27	5-33	25.77	1

1980

Hampshire finished bottom, with no batsman reaching 1,000 runs and no bowler taking 50 wickets.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	18	31	1	917	130	30.56	3	2
Mark Nicholas	17	29	1	776	112	27.71	1	3
David Turner	18	32	3	772	115*	26.62	1	2
Nicholas Pocock	22	37	3	739	61*	21.73	0	3
Tim Tremlett	16	28	4	706	84	29.41	0	7

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Keith Stevenson	48	5-66	31.12	2
John Southern	39	4-23	34.94	0
Nigel Cowley	35	4-47	31.37	0
Malcolm Marshall	17	5-39	18	1
Shaun Graf	16	2-24	48.25	0

1981

Hampshire made a big improvement to finish seventh, Notts winning the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	17	27	1	1299	140	49.96	4	8
Trevor Jesty	21	33	4	835	99	28.79	0	5
David Turner	20	28	4	666	106	27.75	1	4
Mark Nicholas	17	30	5	644	101*	25.76	1	2
Tim Tremlett	14	23	1	567	88	25.77	0	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	68	6-57	19.42	5
Keith Stevenson	56	5-32	32.78	3
Trevor Jesty	51	6-25	19.98	3
Nigel Cowley	23	4-134	43.39	0
John Southern	15	5-108	51.73	1

1982

Gordon Greendidge and Malcolm Marshall starred as Hampshire improved again to finish third behind champions Middlesex.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	20	39	8	1366	183*	44.06	2	4
Trevor Jesty	20	32	5	1302	135*	48.22	6	4
Mark Nicholas	21	37	6	871	127*	28.09	1	5
John Rice	21	40	4	728	69	20.22	0	5
Malcolm Marshall	22	31	3	633	116*	22.6	1	1

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	134	8-71	15.73	12
Kevin Emery	78	6-51	22.19	3
John Southern	44	5-51	23.27	2
Trevor Jesty	34	6-71	21.47	1
Tim Tremlett	24	5-59	27.7	1

1983

Chris Smith topped the runcharts in the year he made his England Test debut as Hampshire again finished third, Essex the champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	20	33	3	1831	193	61.03	6	8
Gordon Greenidge	15	27	5	1438	154	65.36	4	9
Mark Nicholas	24	39	5	1192	110	35.05	2	6
Paul Terry	18	29	6	1039	115	45.17	3	4
Trevor Jesty	19	28	5	1019	187	44.3	1	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	80	7-29	16.58	5
Tim Tremlett	58	6-82	22.15	1
Steve Malone	41	4-39	39.51	0
Nigel Cowley	38	4-10	25.39	0
John Southern	24	5-60	35.33	2

1984

Hampshire slumped to third bottom, Essex retaining their title, in the year Gordon Greenidge and Malcolm Marshall were away with the West Indies thrashing England 5-0.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Mark Nicholas	24	44	1	1453	158	33.79	4	5
Trevor Jesty	23	41	4	1329	143*	35.91	4	4
David Turner	18	33	4	1219	153	42.03	3	6
Chris Smith	24	45	2	1112	125	25.86	3	3
Paul Terry	13	24	3	1055	175*	50.23	4	6

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Tim Tremlett	67	5-48	20.94	2
Cardigan Connor	60	7-37	31.55	1
Nigel Cowley	52	8-33	32.05	0
Raj Maru	43	7-79	34.74	2
Elvis Reifer	38	4-52	42.21	0

1985

With their West Indian stars back again, Hampshire finished runners-up to Middlesex.

Continued on page 18

MEET THE CLASS OF 2015 – SEE PAGES 26-27

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

From page 17

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	21	35	3	1720	143*	53.75	5	11
Robin Smith	24	40	6	1351	140*	39.73	2	7
Gordon Greenidge	19	32	2	1236	204	41.2	2	8
Paul Terry	24	40	2	1224	148*	32.21	2	9
Mark Nicholas	22	35	3	1109	146	34.65	1	7

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	95	7-59	17.68	5
Tim Tremlett	75	5-42	21.6	2
Raj Maru	64	5-16	28.26	3
Cardigan Connor	29	4-62	45.17	0
Steve Andrew	28	6-43	32.67	1

1986

Gordon Greenidge hammered eight hundreds and almost broke the 2,000 run barrier as Hampshire finished sixth in a year where Essex again won the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Gordon Greenidge	19	32	4	1916	222	68.42	8	5
Robin Smith	23	34	6	1100	128*	39.28	2	7
Chris Smith	17	25	8	964	114*	56.7	2	7
Paul Terry	21	33	3	704	80	23.46	0	4
Mark Nicholas	21	28	2	489	55	18.8	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	100	6-51	15.08	5
Cardigan Connor	49	5-60	32.97	1
Raj Maru	41	4-33	28.7	0
Tim Tremlett	40	5-46	29.37	1
Nigel Cowley	33	5-17	28.75	1

1987

Four players topped 1,000 runs as Hampshire finished fifth, with Nottinghamshire champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	24	38	7	1382	217	44.58	4	4
David Turner	23	33	8	1240	184*	49.6	2	8
Paul Terry	21	34	4	1172	122	39.06	1	9
Mark Nicholas	23	34	7	1115	147	41.29	4	4
Robin Smith	17	24	7	852	209*	50.11	1	4

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	72	5-49	20.06	1
Raj Maru	66	5-45	29.34	3
Tim Tremlett	66	6-53	18.95	3
Stephen Andrew	46	7-92	21.65	2
Cardigan Connor	28	4-26	33.67	0

1988

Hampshire finished third bottom while Worcestershire won the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	22	43	3	1436	124*	35.9	3	8
Mark Nicholas	22	42	3	1146	132*	29.38	2	4
David Turner	21	38	5	1121	150*	33.96	2	5
Paul Terry	22	42	3	992	126*	25.43	2	5
Robin Smith	16	32	4	912	141*	32.57	2	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Cardigan Connor	53	5-70	27.37	1
Jonathan Ayling	45	4-57	23.66	0
Raj Maru	45	5-69	35.95	1
Stephen Jefferies	34	8-97	35.76	2
Paul-Jan Bakker	30	5-54	22.33	1

1989

Hampshire finished joint sixth with Derbyshire, Worcestershire retaining the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Paul Terry	22	39	1	1198	180	31.52	1	8
Mark Nicholas	22	38	4	1130	140	33.23	4	3
Chris Smith	17	30	2	1006	107	35.92	1	6
Robin Smith	11	17	1	959	182	59.93	4	1
Kevan James	20	34	3	953	162	30.74	1	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Paul-Jan Bakker	77	6-81	22.49	4
Malcolm Marshall	64	6-69	16.67	4
Cardigan Connor	49	7-31	21.93	4
Raj Maru	38	8-41	35.36	1
Kevan James	29	4-24	37.17	0

1990

Chris Smith scored almost 1,700 runs as Hampshire finished third, Middlesex the champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	20	35	7	1678	132*	59.92	3	12
Tony Middleton	16	28	3	1216	127	48.64	5	5
Paul Terry	19	31	3	1084	165	38.71	3	4
Malcolm Marshall	18	24	3	962	117	45.8	2	6
Robin Smith	11	18	4	897	181	64.07	4	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Malcolm Marshall	72	7-47	19.18	4
Raj Maru	53	6-97	39.37	1
Cardigan Connor	44	5-96	36.88	1
Paul-Jan Bakker	33	5-101	36.21	1
Shaun Udal	16	4-144	46.62	0

Continued on facing page

ADAMS IS READY TO PROVE HIMSELF AGAIN AT AGE OF 39

AS HAMPSHIRE'S oldest player since the great Robin Smith, Andre Adams fully expects plenty of time in the treatment room during the next three months.

At 39, the former Nottinghamshire seamer will be Hampshire's oldest debutant in living memory.

And should he return for a second stint he would be the county's most aged frontline bowler since the legendary Derek Shackleton played his last game as a 45-year-old in 1969.

"I'll probably spend quite a lot of time in the treatment room and keep things lubed up like an old car," he smiled, during a break in preparations for his first game in eight months.

Adams had knee surgery in December and only last week a cortisone injection on his right elbow.

He has been ruled out of the opening game against Sussex tomorrow but expects to be available for next week's match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

"The jab was only the second of my career and in the same place. The elbow's been an ongoing issue for years but the jab's got me to a place where it's manageable and once I start playing it frees up."

Initially, Adams was going to play in Auckland's last first-class match of 2014-15 to prepare for his first Hampshire stint.

"Having a jab was better for Hampshire because the number one priority is that I can bowl pain free," he said.

"But I didn't get much sympathy from the doctor, he just stuck it in there and told me to get on with it!

"The surgery on the knee was the big one. I had a small bucket tear of the meniscus (cartilage tissue) at the end of last season but it wasn't diagnosed till I got home.

"Once it was diagnosed it was pretty straightforward. It's amazing what they can do nowadays – I was able to walk on it the next day.

"It's no big deal now, it's just a case of getting back out there."

If he is anywhere near his best, Adams will be a very useful addition the next three months, during which time he hopes to play in nine Championship matches before celebrating his 40th birthday in July.

DANGERMAN: Andre Adams, pictured taking the wicket of Michael Lumb in 2008, has taken 40 wickets at 17 apiece against Hampshire.

With a career tally of 424 LV County Championship wickets at 25.77 for Essex (2004-06) and Notts – including 36 at 28 apiece last season – Adams' record speaks for itself.

Hampshire will be glad to have him on their side, having lost 40 Championship wickets at just 17 apiece to the Kiwi over the last decade or so.

But the affable Adams knows that record counts for nothing as he prepares to replace Wasim Akram, pictured below, as Hampshire's oldest post-war debutant.

"I still consider myself good enough to be playing first-class cricket but whenever you go somewhere new you have to prove yourself again and that's the challenge for me," he said.

It was at the end of last season that Adams agreed to extend his playing career with Hampshire, due to a three-month window in his new career as a coach.

He has been impressed with what he has seen since flying over from Auckland at the beginning of this week.

"You have to like what you see down here. It's a nice mix, there's a lot of experience in the side and also some exciting young players," he continued.

"I like seeing that they're a very tight team, how they go about their business and that they have what it takes to go to the next level.

"Part of my role is to help the young guys so it's an exciting time to be here and hopefully I'll be able to have an influence."

Adams, who was born in Auckland, is staying at the Botley Park Hotel. "I'm a country boy at heart so love it down here, it's beautiful.

"Every time I come here I get lost on the back roads!"

He is confident that he and Hampshire will remain on course for a successful season over the next few months.

"I'll take one game at a time but having said that the more I play the better the body feels so if I get a run on and keep going hopefully there's no reason to stop," he said.

"The standard here is always very good, it's hard cricket but everyone's aspirations should be very high.

"It's not what people say, it's what they do, but there's no reason why we can't win the comp if we put our minds to it."

EMAIL LOCAL CRICKET NEWS AND PICTURES

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

GOLDEN 'OLDIE': Andre Adams. Picture courtesy of Dave Vokes (LMI Photography)

ACTION JACKSON

Bird targeting championship wickets and Test recall

AIMING FOR A CALL-UP: Jackson Bird hopes to play Ashes cricket this summer.

JACKSON Bird is determined to boost his Ashes chances by excelling for Hampshire in the LV County Championship.

The 28-year-old was left out of Australia's Ashes squad a fortnight ago but remains hopeful that he will play a part in the series, two years after playing the last of his three Tests, against England at Durham, ***writes SIMON WALTER***.

"I'm on standby for the Ashes so if I'm doing well over here and someone gets injured then hopefully I'll get the call-up," said Bird, who took 11 wickets at just 16 apiece in the first two of his three Tests in Sri Lanka two-and-a-half years ago.

He took 2-125 as England won at the Riverside in August 2013.

But a back injury meant he only played one match in 15 months after that, forcing him out of what would have been his first county stint last March.

"I was meant to play for Northants but unfortunately got injured just before I was meant to come over so it's nice to finally get here," he said.

Bird made his comeback for Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield in November, taking 18 wickets at 33 apiece during a winter in which he also helped the Melbourne Stars to the semi-finals of the Big Bash.

"I rested for four months and was lucky enough to play a lot of cricket just before Christmas," he said.

"As the summer went I got more confidence in my body so my pace was a lot more consistent towards the end of the season.

ADVICE: George Bailey.

"I've definitely brought that confidence over here, and am just excited to be on the park after 18 months on and off."

Bird has subsequently been ruled out of Hampshire's first game with a shoulder strain sustained during this week's friendly against Kent.

But he is expected to be fit for the next match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on April 19.

"It's a good opportunity for me and I'm grateful for Hampshire for it," he said.

"I've chatted to [Tasmania teammate and former Hampshrie batsman] George Bailey about what to expect and hopefully I'll take a few wickets and we'll do well in division one.

"It's nice to be with a new group of cricketers and see how they go about their business.

"The top order's very strong and there are a couple of good bowlers as well.

"There are a lot of people to learn from so it's about having the confidence to believe we can do well in division one and I think the boys definitely do."

Assuming Australia do not need to replace any of their Ashes seamers (Ryan Harris, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Johnson and Josh Hazlewood), Bird could extend his stint with Hampshire.

"There's the option to do that," he said.

"But it would also depend on how my body's going because the Australian summer's my priority."

Bird is also likely to play some part in the T20 Blast.

"It's a matter of looking at the schedule and seeing when is best to rest," he explained.

Bird did not make his first-class debut until a month before his 26th birthday and has an impressive tally of 133 wickets at 23 apiece from the 33 matches he has played.

That includes four matches during Australia A's tours of England in 2012-13, from which he took ten wickets at 39.5 against England Lions, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire.

He also enjoyed a brief stint with Ealing CC in 2008, taking 11 wickets at 20.9 in the Middlesex County League.

It is the away games against Middlesex CCC at nearby Lord's in June that he is most looking forward to.

"I was 13th man in the Test there so playing there will be great," he said.

From facing page

1991

Aquib Javed finished as leading wicket-taker as Hampshire finished ninth behind champions Essex.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Chris Smith	15	26	3	1353	145	58.82	5	7
Paul Terry	18	32	2	1226	171	40.86	2	7
Kevan James	22	35	9	1216	134*	46.76	2	6
David Gower	22	37	5	1132	80*	35.37	0	8
Robin Smith	10	20	0	852	107	42.6	1	7

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Aaqib Javed	53	6-91	29.92	3
Kevan James	37	4-32	32.94	0
Kevin Shine	37	5-43	36.48	2
Raj Maru	34	5-128	45.11	1
Cardigan Connor	29	4-49	38.89	0

1992

Tony Middleton was Hampshire's top batsman as they finished 15th. Essex were champions again.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Tony Middleton	22	37	4	1628	221	49.33	5	7
Kevan James	21	33	2	1006	116	32.45	1	7
David Gower	16	26	5	1005	155	47.85	1	6
Mark Nicholas	20	30	5	972	95*	38.88	0	6
Paul Terry	11	17	2	766	141	51.06	3	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Shaun Udal	50	8-50	37.34	1
Malcolm Marshall	49	6-58	27.51	1
Jonathan Ayling	43	5-12	21.83	1
Kevin Shine	38	8-47	30.55	3
Cardigan Connor	32	5-58	43.31	1

1993

Shaun Udal claimed 65 wickets as Hampshire ended 13th, Middlesex the champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Paul Terry	17	29	2	1257	174	46.55	3	6
David Gower	15	26	0	1105	153	42.5	4	5
Mark Nicholas	16	26	4	825	95	37.5	0	5
Robin Smith	10	15	1	761	131	54.35	3	2
Adrian Aymes	17	26	9	682	107*	40.11	1	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Shaun Udal	65	6-141	29.06	5
Darren Flint	31	5-32	34.38	1
Kevan James	31	4-33	26	0
Malcolm Marshall	28	5-62	30.67	1
Kevin Shine	22	6-62	46.18	2

1994

Cardigan Connor and Shaun Udal both took over 60 wickets, but Hampshire could only manage joint 13th with Yorkshire. Warwickshire, with Brian Lara well to the fore, won the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Robin Smith	14	25	0	1143	162	45.72	5	3
Mark Nicholas	17	30	6	1115	145	46.45	3	5
Paul Terry	17	31	1	1056	164	35.2	4	1
Shaun Udal	15	26	3	656	94	28.52	0	4
Adrian Aymes	17	28	0	635	76	22.67	0	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Cardigan Connor	67	7-47	24.82	2
Shaun Udal	62	6-79	28.3	6
Norman Cowans	26	4-76	37.92	0
Winston Benjamin	24	6-46	24.37	2
Kevan James	22	4-78	37.9	0

1995

Mark Nicholas was the only Hampshire player with over 1,000 runs as his county finished 13th. Warwickshire won back to back titles.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Mark Nicholas	17	30	3	1077	147	39.88	3	4
Robin Smith	8	15	1	812	172	58	3	2
Paul Terry	17	30	2	796	170	28.42	1	2
John Stephenson	15	26	4	689	127	31.31	1	5
Paul Whitaker	11	18	0	566	119	31.44	1	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wI
Cardigan Connor	54	6-44	31.61	3
Shaun Udal	53	6-65	31.92	5
Heath Streak	52	4-40	27.84	0
John Stephenson	36	7-51	32.33	1
James Bovill	29	6-29	25.55	2

1996

Hampshire finished 14th while Leicestershire were champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Robin Smith	16	29	2	1348	179	49.92	3	8
Jason Laney	14	26	0	932	105	35.84	2	5
Adrian Aymes	17	30	12	770	113	42.77	2	2
Matthew Keech	10	18	2	644	104	40.25	1	6
Kevan James	12	22	1	635	118*	30.23	1	3

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TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

From page 19

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Cardigan Connor	48	9-38	21.52	2
John Stephenson	36	6-48	28.75	3
James Bovill	31	5-58	33.77	1
Shaun Udal	26	5-82	51.26	1
Kevan James	25	3-17	32.32	0

1997

Australian Matthew Hayden's runs could not help Hampshire finish any higher than 14th. Glamorgan were the surprise title winners.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Matthew Hayden	16	28	3	1438	235*	57.52	4	7
Robin Smith	13	21	1	852	154	42.6	2	4
Jason Laney	13	23	0	808	95	35.13	0	6
Giles White	9	16	2	667	145	47.64	1	4
John Stephenson	15	23	3	644	114	32.2	1	1

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
John Stephenson	35	6-54	38.74	1
Simon Renshaw	33	5-110	35.48	1
Shaun Udal	32	4-17	52.06	0
James Bovill	23	4-62	35.43	0
Kevan James	23	8-49	19.26	2

1998

Nixon McLean was Hampshire's chief wicket threat as the county finished sixth behind champions Leicestershire.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Giles White	17	29	2	905	106	33.51	2	5
Robin Smith	15	23	2	841	138	40.04	3	2
Adrian Aymes	17	26	5	741	133	35.28	2	3
John Stephenson	15	23	1	681	114	30.95	2	4
DimiMascarenhas	16	24	2	645	89	29.31	0	6

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Nixon McLean	62	6-101	25.4	2
Alexander Morris	47	4-30	20.08	0
Peter Hartley	31	4-42	35.54	0
Kevan James	31	4-22	32.41	0
Dimi Mascarenhas	30	4-31	31.13	0

1999

Hampshire finished seventh, ensuring they would start the new two-tier structure the following year in the top flight. Surrey were champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Will Kendall	17	29	2	1121	201	41.51	2	7
Robin Smith	17	28	2	1065	96	40.96	0	10
Derek Kenway	17	28	5	922	102	40.08	1	6
Adrian Aymes	17	26	4	722	115*	32.81	2	4
Jason Laney	10	17	1	688	99	43	0	6

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Peter Hartley	54	8-65	21.77	2
Nixon McLean	46	4-63	32.36	0
Shaun Udal	41	6-47	27.63	2
John Stephenson	34	5-60	28.82	1
Alex Morris	24	5-52	19.45	3

2000

Despite Shane Warne taking 70 wickets, Hampshire finished seventh in the top flight and were relegated into division two, Surrey retaining their title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Will Kendall	16	27	2	979	161	39.16	3	3
Giles White	16	28	4	742	96	30.91	0	5
Derek Kenway	13	23	1	615	136	27.95	1	3
Robin Smith	16	27	0	529	61	19.59	0	2
Dimi Mascarenhas	15	22	1	448	100	21.33	1	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Shane Warne	70	6-34	23.14	5
Alan Mullally	49	9-93	16.97	5
Shaun Udal	28	5-58	26.6	1
Dimi Mascarenhas	25	4-52	27.92	0
Alex Morris	18	3-48	28.11	0

2001

Hampshire finished runners-up in division two behind Sussex, winning promotion back to the top flight. Yorkshire topped division one.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Neil Johnson	16	25	3	948	105*	43.09	2	7
Derek Kenway	15	28	3	840	166	33.6	2	3
Giles White	16	30	4	731	141	28.11	2	1
Will Kendall	16	28	3	629	94	25.16	0	3
Adrian Aymes	16	19	5	572	112*	40.85	1	4

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Alan Mullally	57	8-90	18.36	5
Alex Morris	51	5-39	28	2
Shaun Udal	49	7-74	29.69	1
Dimi Mascarenhas	39	6-26	25.38	2
Neil Johnson	21	4-20	39.8	0

2002

Back in Division one, Hampshire struggled and were relegated for the second time in three years. Surrey were comfortable title winners.

Continued on facing page

WHITE OUT TO MINE RICH SEAM

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

HAMPSHIRE director of cricket Giles White admits one of the county's main challenges is producing homegrown fast bowlers.

South African teenager Brad Wheal has already made a big impression at The Ageas Bowl since his arrival last month.

But White wants to see more local seamers coming through the academy.

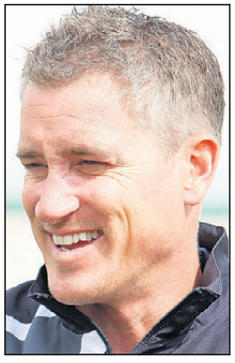
"There's a gap there," he admits. "We're producing batsmen; Joe Weatherley is captaining England Under-19s and will soon be pushing through and we've also got Sean Terry.

"We've got another two spin bowlers in Brad Taylor and Mason Crane and another wicketkeeper in Lewis Mcmanus.

"But we haven't seen fast bowlers come through in the same manner so I've looked at the system in place with our academy director Bobby Parks to try and produce fast bowlers to keep us in good health further down the line."

Tom Barber has followed fellow homegrown left-armers Chris Wood and James Tomlinson into the first-team squad but along with Chris Tremlett, now of Surrey, and David Griffiths, now of Kent, they have been the exception over the last 15 years.

Durham have had no problem in that regard so is the contrast to do with the less favourable seam conditions in the south?



HOMEGROWN PUSH: Giles White.

"I don't know what it is; mentality maybe?" continued White. "Chris and Tomo are in their thirties now so it's been a while since we've had one come through.

RAW TALENT

"But at least the raw talent's there. Tom Barber's probably the quickest of the bowlers coming through. He's got to hone that talent but he's talented and capable of bowling spells of first-class quality.

"And we had an U17 from Milford School impressing against James Vince and Jimmy Adams in the nets last week. He's got something to offer."

Since his debut in 2002,Tomlinson has taken 344 Championship wickets at 31 apiece and is using all the experience he has gained to help the next crop of Hampshire seamers.

"Tomo's doing a bloody good job with the Emerging Players Programme, his energy has been outstanding," continues White.

"I obviously want him to play as long as possible but I can see him joining our coaching staff.

"He's made a very good start with the EPP. The horrendous crash on the M27 last week meant a lot of youngsters coming in for a coaching session with Tomo were stuck in traffic.

"It was absolutely chocca but only one of them missed it. The rest got out of their cars and ran to the ground from Hedge End to make sure they made the session!

"They wanted to be there and that says a lot to me. It says Tomo's doing a good job so I'm very pleased with the way he's taken to the role."

In the short term, White is pleased with the more experienced bowling recruits; Andre Adams, Jackson Bird, Yasir Arafat, Gareth Berg and Fidel Edwards.

He said: "We'll have Andre and Jackson for the lion's share of the Championship season and Arafat joining Jackson as the overseas players for the Twenty20, with Fidel Edwards playing the 50-over games and the last two months of Championship cricket.

"It all fits well in principle. We're very capable of playing good cricket so hopefully we'll be in a position halfway through where we're looking towards the top and not the bottom of the first division."

FUTURE IN COACHING: James Tomlinson.

Vince is hot to Trott: Chat with recalled Test

JAMES VINCE

IF HE makes his England debut this summer, James Vince believes he will be better prepared for it thanks to the time he spent batting with Jonathan Trott for the England Lions.

Vince and Trott were the Lions' top scorers during the two 'Tests' against South Africa A in Paarl and Bloemfontein in January.

The 525 runs they scored between them (261 at 130.5 for Vince and 264 for Trott at 132) included fourth-wicket stands of 165 and 115 and the latter secured a series-saving draw after the Lions had slipped to 81-3 – with Vince finishing unbeaten on 152.

Trott has been rewarded with a recall to England's squad for the three-Test series against the West Indies that begins on Monday.

Vince will surely be given his full international debut, probably in one-day competition to begin with, at some stage this year.

READY

"I'm more ready for it," said Vince who has been given Hampshire's 50-over captaincy after leading the Lions to a 3-1 win in the one-day series that followed the first-class matches, when Trott returned home. "Beating a good South Africa side and scoring runs has given me belief as it's the next best thing to international cricket.

"It was nice to come home with those runs in the bank and good to bat with and talk about batting with Jonathan Trott (pictured right). His concentration, more than anything, stands out. He has the same routine, he keeps going and going. He batted

BRAD WHEAL INTERVIEW – SEE PAGE 34

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

DAWSON RELISHING TOP-FLIGHT RETURN

FIRST DIVISION EXPERIENCE: Liam Dawson.

HAMPSHIRE'S last season in the LV County Championship's first division holds mixed memories for Liam Dawson.

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

The 25-year-old remembers 2011 as his breakthrough season as a first-class batsman.

It yielded 908 top-flight runs at an average of 36, including the two biggest hundreds of his career – 169 against Somerset and an unbeaten 152 against Warwickshire.

What is more, he scored all his runs as an opening batsman.

Ultimately that season ended in disappointment with Hampshire's relegation to the second division after seven years in the first.

But knowing he has scored big runs in the first division gives Dawson no shortage of belief ahead of the opening game of the season against Sussex.

"I had a decent year personally in 2011 and enjoyed playing on some of the best Test grounds against some of the best bowlers in the country," he said.

"If you aspire to play for England, scoring runs in division one in what you have to do."

James Vince, Danny Briggs and Chris Wood also played regularly in 2011 and are still under 25.

"We had Macca (Neil McKenzie) back then but we're better players for having three or four years more experience and have all grown up as people," continued Dawson, who is relishing the increased level of competition.

"In our first few seasons in division two we had a lot of dead games come August/September.

"As a player you still do your best but there's not that edge you want.

"In division one it's different, you can be in a battle to stay up as well as one at the top.

"We were in a battle against relegation for a few seasons in division one, which you don't want.

"But it meant there was always something to play for. We'll aim to win the first division this year – our batting's as good as anyone."

As well as improving Hampshire's attack, the arrival of Andre Adams, pictured above, has also reminded Dawson of his last season in division one, particularly the second game that year at Trent Bridge. Adams recorded match figures of 11-85 as Hampshire lost by nine wickets.

"He got me out in the second innings [when he took 6-31] during one of the best spells of bowling I've ever faced, so it will be nice to have him on our side.

"Jackson Bird's also a proven performer and another good lad."

Dawson is hoping for a similar runs return to 2013, when he scored a career-best 1,060 first-class runs at 48, after missing two months of last season due to a groin injury sustained in the opening T20 Blast match.

He is ready to go after playing in Bangladesh and Australia during the winter. He spent five weeks before Christmas playing in Bangladesh's one -day competition, the highlight being a top score of 113.

"The wickets in Bangladesh don't really spin and the bounce is variable so it's sometimes hard to score which was a really good test for my batting. It's a tough place to play for both bowlers and batsmen."

After Christmas he played three months of grade cricket for Melville CC with Hampshire teammate Adam Wheater.

"It was decent cricket and it was good to have another Hampshire lad there but I was disappointed with the wickets," said Dawson, who is also hoping to develop his slow left-arm skills this season.

"I thought the wickets would be a lot better than they were but it was good for my bowling!

"They spun a lot, so from that point of view they were brilliant and I bowled pretty well in one-day cricket. But they were tough to bat on which was disappointing.

"After the frustration of last year, when I didn't play as much as I wanted to, that kept me ticking over.

"And I've trained hard so hopefully that stands me in good stead."

star prepares James for England duty

for I don't know how many hours but it was more than day.

"It's good to see him back in the fold and hopefully he goes well."

Vince played for three seasons in division one (1,800 runs at 30.5) before the last three in division two (3,043 runs at 50.7).

He returns a more disciplined player.

"My game's changed a lot, my game's definitely different from our previous spell in division one, my batting's got better and better," he said.

"But I would probably have learnt quicker in division one against the stronger sides so it's good to be back. It will be interesting to see what we come up against but I'm sure the guys here are capable of dealing with it. It was very enjoyable to have success in four-day cricket last year, it's something we've wanted for a few years and hopefully we can be as successful in division one.

"The squad's looking in good shape and we're looking forward to the challenge. Jackson Bird and Andre Adams will I'm sure have a big impact, Bergy's done well in pre-season and not many would put their hand up to face Fidel Edwards.

BUILDING

"We'll try and win every game which in reality probably won't happen. But building towards challenging for the title in the next couple of years is realistic."

So is an ODI debut for Vince, particularly after England's World Cup debacle.

"I try not to focus on it," said the 24-year-old who, like most England fans, missed much of the World Cup due to the timings. "It's tough to know what's going on from the outside," he said. "Guys were out of form which is not what you need, you want all guys firing.

"It just wasn't to be."

From facing page

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Neil Johnson	16	27	2	812	117	32.48	1	6
Robin Smith	14	23	1	807	104	36.68	2	3
John Crawley	9	16	2	806	272	57.57	1	6
Will Kendall	16	29	2	698	88	25.85	0	4
Nic Pothas	16	26	1	597	99	23.88	0	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Shaun Udal	50	5-56	35.12	3
Alan Mullally	46	6-56	25.13	1
Dimitri Mascarenhas	36	5-87	30.83	1
Chris Tremlett	36	5-57	29.47	2
Neil Johnson	21	3-22	36.61	0

2003

Despite Simon Katich impressing in his debut season with the county, Hampshire finished second bottom of the Championship, with only Derbyshire below them. Sussex won the title for the first time in their history.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Simon Katich	13	22	3	1143	143*	60.15	4	6
John Crawley	16	27	1	878	93	33.76	0	8
Nic Pothas	13	20	2	809	146*	44.94	2	4
Derek Kenway	15	26	1	657	115	26.28	2	2
Dimi Mascarenhas	16	25	1	584	100*	24.33	1	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Dimi Mascarenhas	39	6-55	31.33	1
Shaun Udal	34	4-69	36.52	0
Chris Tremlett	27	6-51	34.4	1
Wasim Akram	20	3-31	25.15	0
Simon Katich	17	4-21	34.76	0

2004

With Shane Warne back and captaining the county for the first time, Hampshire finished runners-up to Nottinghamshire and therefore won promotion. Warwickshire won division one.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
John Crawley	13	21	3	938	301*	52.11	1	5
Michael Brown	16	28	2	838	109*	32.23	2	6
Nic Pothas	16	24	3	834	131*	39.71	3	4
Michael Clarke	12	20	0	709	140	35.45	3	2
Derek Kenway	14	23	1	552	101	25.09	1	1

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Dimi Mascarenhas	56	6-25	18.67	4
Shane Warne	51	6-65	24.13	3
Chris Tremlett	39	4-29	22.23	0
Shaun Udal	39	6-79	22.28	1
Billy Taylor	33	5-73	31.48	1

2005

For the second year running, Hampshire finished runners-up to Nottinghamshire. John Crawley topped the batting charts for the second year running as Hampshire finished only two and a half points behind the champions.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
John Crawley	16	29	2	1246	311*	46.14	3	4
Nic Pothas	15	24	5	973	139	51.21	3	5
Sean Ervine	16	28	1	821	75	30.4	0	7
Simon Katich	7	13	1	597	128	49.75	1	4
Michael Brown	13	25	1	560	54	23.33	0	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Shane Warne	47	6-88	24.70	1
Chris Tremlett	46	6-44	26.78	2
Shaun Udal	44	6-44	18.9	3
Sean Ervine	42	5-60	32.38	3
Dimi Mascarenhas	34	5-55	23.55	2

2006

John Crawley was again the outstanding batsman as Hampshire finished third, Sussex champions for a second time.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
John Crawley	16	27	1	1737	189	66.80	6	7
Jimmy Adams	16	30	5	1162	262*	46.48	2	4
Nic Pothas	15	22	7	973	122*	64.86	4	5
Michael Carberry	15	28	2	938	104	36.07	2	5
Dominic Thornely	15	25	3	759	76	34.50	0	6

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Shane Warne	58	7-99	27.08	4
Dimi Mascarenhas	43	6-65	24.97	2
James Bruce	38	5-43	29.18	1
Chris Tremlett	34	6-89	24.55	1
Sean Ervine	26	3-57	40.76	0

2007

Hampshire finished fifth while Sussex again won the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Michael Brown	16	29	4	1078	126*	43.12	3	5
Michael Carberry	13	24	3	1067	192*	50.8	5	3
John Crawley	15	27	5	866	113*	39.36	1	6
Michael Lumb	16	25	0	775	89	31	0	8
Jimmy Adams	11	20	1	773	110	40.68	1	5

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Shane Warne	50	6-83	29.58	5
James Bruce	39	5-64	30.74	2

Continued on page 22

COUNTY CRICKET TALKING POINTS – SEE PAGES 30-31

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

From page 21

Stuart Clark	24	7-82	25.08	1
Dimi Mascarenhas	15	4-33	32.06	0
Daren Powell	15	4-8	22.86	0

2008

James Tomlinson was the leading wicket-taker in the Championship as Hampshire finished third in a season where Durham were crowned champions for the first time.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Nic Pothas	14	23	5	963	137*	53.5	3	3
Michael Brown	14	26	3	940	104*	40.86	1	6
Michael Lumb	16	27	2	818	107	32.72	1	6
Dimi Mascarenhas	15	24	2	673	99	30.59	0	3
Michael Carberry	14	26	3	658	92	28.6	0	4

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
James Tomlinson	67	8-46	24.76	4
Imran Tahir	44	7-66	16.68	3
Dimitri Mascarenhas	41	6-67	23.82	2
Chris Tremlett	27	5-67	37	1
Shane Bond	19	7-66	19.21	2

2009

Jimmy Adams topped the runscorers list for the first time as Hampshire finished sixth, Durham retaining the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Jimmy Adams	16	28	4	1279	147	53.29	3	9
Michael Carberry	12	21	3	1251	204	69.5	4	8
Micahel Lumb	15	23	1	834	219	37.9	1	5
Sean Ervine	15	22	2	832	114	41.6	3	3
Nic Pothas	11	15	4	816	122*	74.18	1	6

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Imran Tahir	52	7-140	32.9	4
James Tomlinson	30	3-53	39.76	0
David Griffiths	28	4-48	33.89	0
Dominic Cork	27	5-14	28.4	1
Chris Tremlett	14	4-49	40.28	0

2010

Jimmy Adams and Michael Carberry both passed 1,000 runs for the first time, but Hampshire could only finish just outside the drop zone, Notts won the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Jimmy Adams	16	29	1	1351	196	48.25	3	8
Michael Carberry	15	27	1	1221	162	46.96	5	4
Sean Ervine	16	26	4	944	237*	42.9	1	5
Neil McKenzie	14	24	4	801	115*	40.05	2	4
James Vince	15	25	2	795	180	34.56	1	3

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
James Tomlinson	46	7-85	35.3	2
Dominic Cork	45	5-50	23.15	2
Danny Briggs	32	4-93	39.43	0
David Balcombe	24	3-69	30.04	0
Kabir Ali	19	5-33	25.68	2

2011

Danny Briggs was Hampshire's top wicket-taker for the first time with 38 as the county's seven-season stay in the top flight of the Championship was ended with a bottom placed finish. Lancashire took the title.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Neil McKenzie	16	28	2	1120	237	43.07	3	3
Jimmy Adams	15	26	0	935	207	35.96	2	4
Liam Dawson	15	26	1	908	169	36.32	2	5
Michael Carberry	9	15	1	793	300*	56.64	3	1
James Vince	16	27	2	723	157	28.92	2	2

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
Danny Briggs	38	6-65	36.65	3
Imran Tahir	28	6-132	24.46	2
Chris Wood	24	4-35	27.95	0
Dominic Cork	22	5-75	36.45	1
Dimi Mascarenhas	21	6-62	27.66	1

2012

David Balcombe comfortably finished as Hampshire's leading wicket-taker for the first time as the county finished fourth in the second tier. Warwickshire won Division 1.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
Jimmy Adams	14	25	5	987	149	49.35	3	4
Simon Katich	15	23	2	738	196	35.14	1	5
Sean Ervine	16	23	3	696	109*	34.8	1	4
Liam Dawson	16	25	2	682	134*	29.65	1	2
Michael Bates	16	22	0	437	103	19.86	1	1

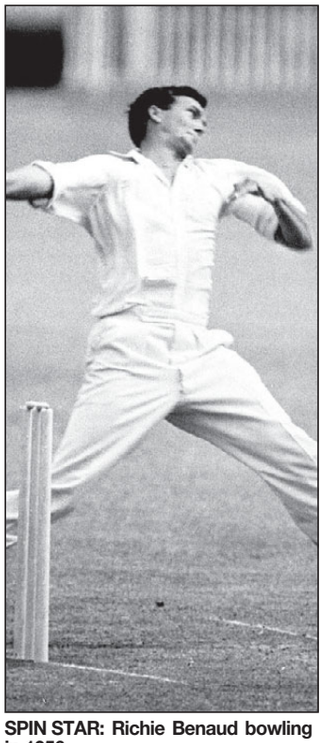
Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
David Balcombe	59	8-71	26.93	3
James Tomlinson	43	5-69	26.3	2
Sean Ervine	26	4-96	26.5	0
Liam Dawson	23	5-29	36.04	1
Kabir Ali	22	3-42	34.95	0

2013

James Vince passed 1,000 Championship runs for the first time as Hampshire again finished fourth. Durham won the top flight.

Continued on facing page



SPIN STAR: Richie Benaud bowling in 1956

Farewell to voice of the game

PERFECT DELIVERY: Richie Benaud in the commentary box

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Test captain Michael Clarke led the tributes following the death of the revered former national skipper and broadcaster Richie Benaud, aged 84.

News of the Benaud's death prompted cricket fans the world over to remember a pioneering player, who never lost a series while leading Australia, that went on to become one of the game's best loved voices.

The former leg-spinner and middle-order batsman was the first person to score over 2,000 runs and take 200 Test wickets in Test cricket before moving into a career in the media.

And he was as cherished in England, where he worked on television with the BBC and then Channel 4 from 1963 to 2005, as he was in his homeland on Channel Nine for his measured, laconic brand of commentary.

Abbott has promised a state funeral for the family of Benaud, telling a press conference in Brisbane shown by ABC News in Australia: "There would be very few Australians who have not passed a summer in the company of Richie Benaud.

"He was the accompaniment of an Australian summer, his voice was even more present than the chirping of the cicadas in our suburbs and towns, and that voice, tragically, is now still.

"But we remember him with tremendous affection.

"He hasn't just been the voice of cricket since the early 1960s, he was an extraordinarily successful Australian cricket captain.

"He led our country for five years in 28 Tests, and he never lost a Test series. He was the first cricketer to achieve the remarkable double of 2,000 Test runs and 200 Test wickets.

"This is the greatest loss for cricket since the loss of Don Bradman and for that reason I'm pleased to have offered the Benaud family a state funeral."

> "This is the greatest loss for cricket since Bradman"

Test captain Clarke believes Benaud's legacy on and off the field will leave a lasting impression.

"I think (for) everybody involved in cricket, Richie is known for a lot more than bowling a few leg-spinners and hitting a few cover drives," he told Channel Nine.

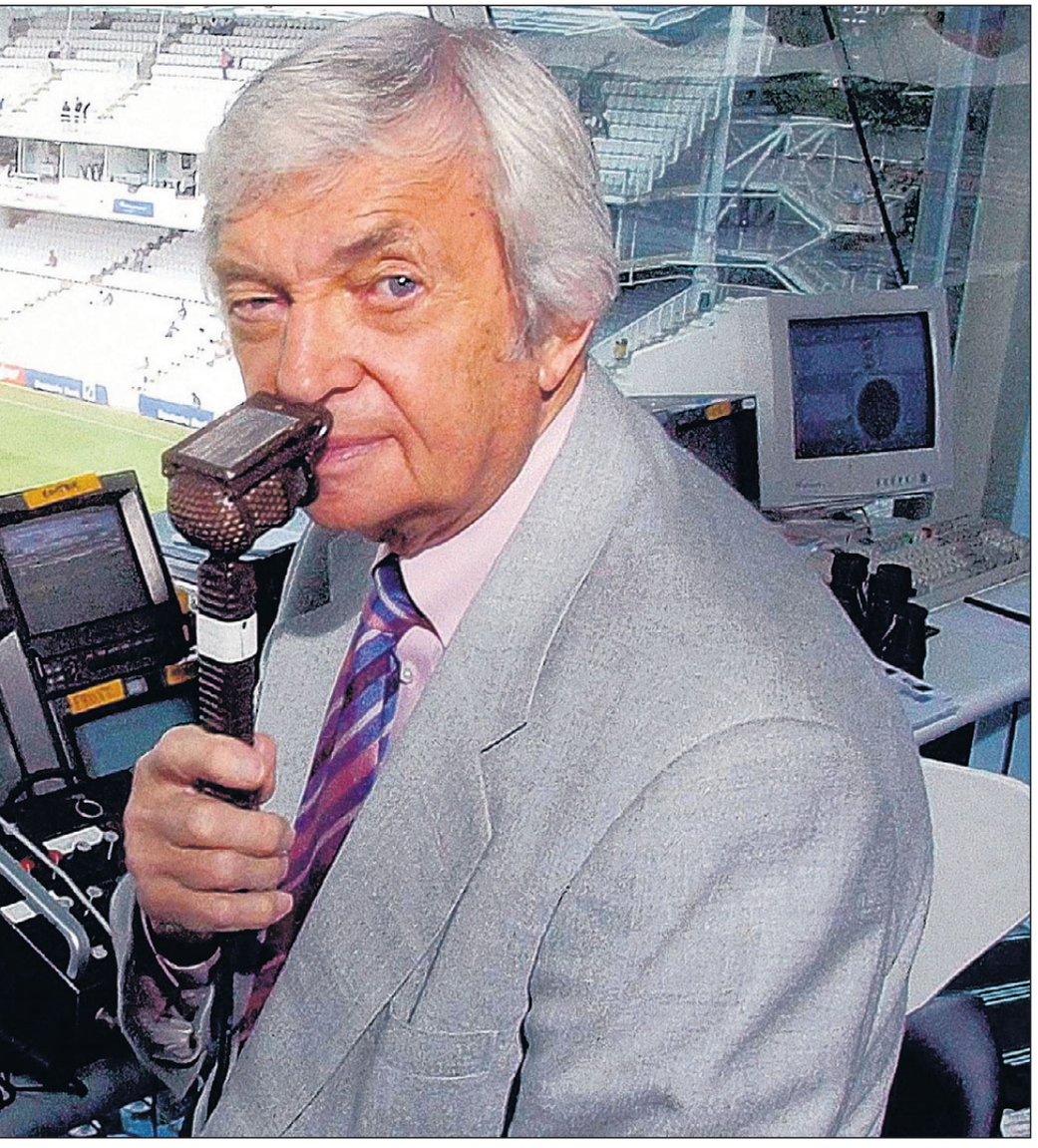
"He was a great player and a great captain, a wonderful leader of men and I think he's continued that off the field. He sets a great example, he's a gentleman, he played the game in the right spirit.

"I think all of us look up to Richie

TRIBUTE: A portrait of Richie Benaud was placed next to an Australian Cricket Jacket in the famous Long Room of Lords cricket ground

THE TOUGHEST CONTEST TO PREDICT – SEE PAGES 28-29

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



so it's a really sad day."

Benaud took a break from commentary in 2013 after being involved in a car accident and just over a year later his comeback was put on ice as he began to receive treatment for skin cancer.

He never did return to the microphone full-time but his legacy was secured and Australia coach Darren Lehmann hailed him as "one of the game's greats".

"The fact Australia never lost a series under his captaincy says so much and those standards were just as high when he turned his attention to calling the game," said Lehmann.

"We loved listening to him commentate when the team was together in the dressing room. When he was on air, we always had the TV volume turned up because his comments were so insightful."

Benaud, who finished his international career with 2,201 runs at 248 Test scalps, at one point was Australia's leading wicket-taker before his record was surpassed by Dennis Lillee and eventually Shane Warne.

One of Benaud's most famous commentaries was on the 'ball of the century' - Warne's first delivery in Ashes cricket which dismissed Mike Gatting - and the 45-year-old fellow leg-spinner paid an emotional tribute to his mentor on Instagram.

"As a cricketer, commentator & as a person, you were the best there's ever been & to top it off, an absolute gentleman..." Warne wrote.

"For me it was an honour & a privilege to call you a close friend & mentor, we had so many wonderful times together, talking cricket & in particular, our love & passion of leg spin bowling.

"Richie, you were loved by everyone, not just the cricket family, you were the godfather of cricket & you will be missed by all... R.I.P my friend."

The MCC flag at Lord's was flying at half mast on Friday as a mark of respect for Benaud, who leaves a wife, Daphne, and two sons from a previous marriage.

England coach Peter Moores said: "Richie sums up all that is great about our sport.

"He was a true gentlemen with a real insight into the game and his enthusiasm for the sport made you want to get off the sofa and play. He will be sorely missed."

India great Sachin Tendulkar described Benaud as a "wonderful personality who was always warm and encouraging (and) had great insights on the game".

Benaud's fellow broadcasters hailed Benaud's influence, led by Test Match Special's Jonathan Agnew. Agnew wrote on bbc.co.uk: "He was quite simply peerless. Nobody else had his authority, popularity and skill."

Nasser Hussain told Sky Sports News: "He is exactly what you set your standards by, the way he did it, the delivery of his lines."

Hussain's Sky colleague and fellow former England captain Mike Atherton added: "One of the first things he said to me was 'you're a guest in somebody's front room for six hours a day, so try not to irritate them'."

Richie Benaud at his wedding to Daphne Surfleet in London, 1967

Richie Benaud in 1961

From facing page

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
James Vince	15	22	4	1101	148	61.16	4	6
Liam Dawson	16	24	3	1031	136*	49.09	1	8
Jimmy Adams	16	24	3	833	219*	39.66	3	1
Michael Carberry	11	16	0	687	154	42.93	1	5
Adam Wheater	15	18	2	585	140	36.56	2	1

Leading wicket takers

	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
James Tomlinson	53	5-44	24.16	1
David Balcombe	22	5-104	50.04	1
Danny Briggs	22	3-33	36.27	0
Matt Coles	21	6-71	24	2
Sean Ervine	17	2-17	33.94	0

2014

Will Smith passed 1,000 runs in his first season at The Ageas Bowl as Hampshire's three-year stint in the second tier ended with the title. Yorkshire won the top flight.

Leading run scorers

	M	Inns	No	Rns	HS	Av	100	50
James Vince	16	28	3	1525	240	61	4	7
Jimmy Adams	16	29	1	1215	231	43.39	1	8
Will Smith	16	27	4	1187	151*	51.6	2	6
Sean Ervine	16	23	4	856	121	45.05	2	4
Michael Carberry	12	21	1	847	125	42.35	3	3

Leading wicket takers

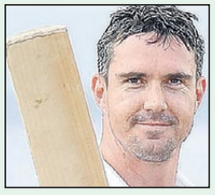
	Wkts	BB	Ave	5wl
James Tomlinson	47	6-48	25.85	1
Matt Coles	41	4-84	28.41	0
Kyle Abbott	36	5-44	20.33	2
Danny Briggs	27	5-50	26.11	1
Sean Ervine	19	3-22	36.1	0

COUNTY CRICKET INS AND OUTS

THE forthcoming English county cricket season promises to be a fascinating campaign.

Some of the world's top names will appear at some point over the next few months.

Somerset have signed West Indian box office star Chris Gayle for a handful of NatWest T20 Blast games.



Ex-Hampshire men Glenn Maxwell and Shahid Afridi have been snapped up by Yorkshire and Northants respectively.

And then there is Kevin Pietersen, above, yet another former Ageas Bowl star.

KP has recently re-signed for Surrey and will play Championship cricket in a bid to force his way back into the England reckoning.

Here, the Sports Pink rounds up the ins and outs around the 18 first class counties.

DERBYSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Shivnarine Chanderpaul (West Indies); Marcus North (Australia); Cheteshwar Pujara (India)

Overseas player 2015: Martin Guptill (New Zealand, until early June); Tillakaratne Dilshan (Sri Lanka, June and early August until end of the season), Nathan Rimmington (Australia)

Ins: Shiv Thakor (Leicestershire), Will Davis (YTH), Adam Wheatcroft (YTH), Harry White (YTH), Wayne White (Lancashire)

Outs: Tim Groenewald (Somerset), Mark Turner (REL), Matt Higginbottom (REL), Gareth Cross (REL)

Continued on page 26

WHO'S WHO IN THE HANTS SQUAD? – SEE PAGES 26-27

HAMPSHIR

HAMPSHIRE FIXTURES 2015

APRIL

12-15 Sussex (h) CC
19-22 Warwickshire (Edgbaston) CC
26-29 Nottinghamshire (h) CC

MAY

10-13 Yorkshire (Headingley) CC
15 Essex (h) T20
17-20 Middlesex (h) CC
22 Kent (h) ..... T20 – f
29 Glamorgan (Swalec) ..... T20 – f
31-3 Worcestershire (h) CC

JUNE

4 Middlesex (h) T20
5 Somerset (Taunton) T20
7-10 Sussex (Hove) CC
12 Kent (Canterbury) ..... T20 – f
18 Middlesex (Lord's) ..... T20 – f
19 Sussex (h) ..... T20 – f
21 Somerset (h) CC
26 Essex (Chelmsford) ..... T20 – f
28-1 Middlesex (Lord's) CC

JULY

3 Glamorgan (h) ..... T20 – f
6-9 Worcestershire (New Road) CC
10 Surrey (h) ..... T20 – f
14 Gloucestershire (Cheltenham) T20
17 Sussex (Hove) ..... T20 – f
19-22 Durham (h) CC
23 Somerset (h) ..... T20 – f
27 Sussex (h) ..... 50L - f
30 Kent (Canterbury) ..... 50L - f

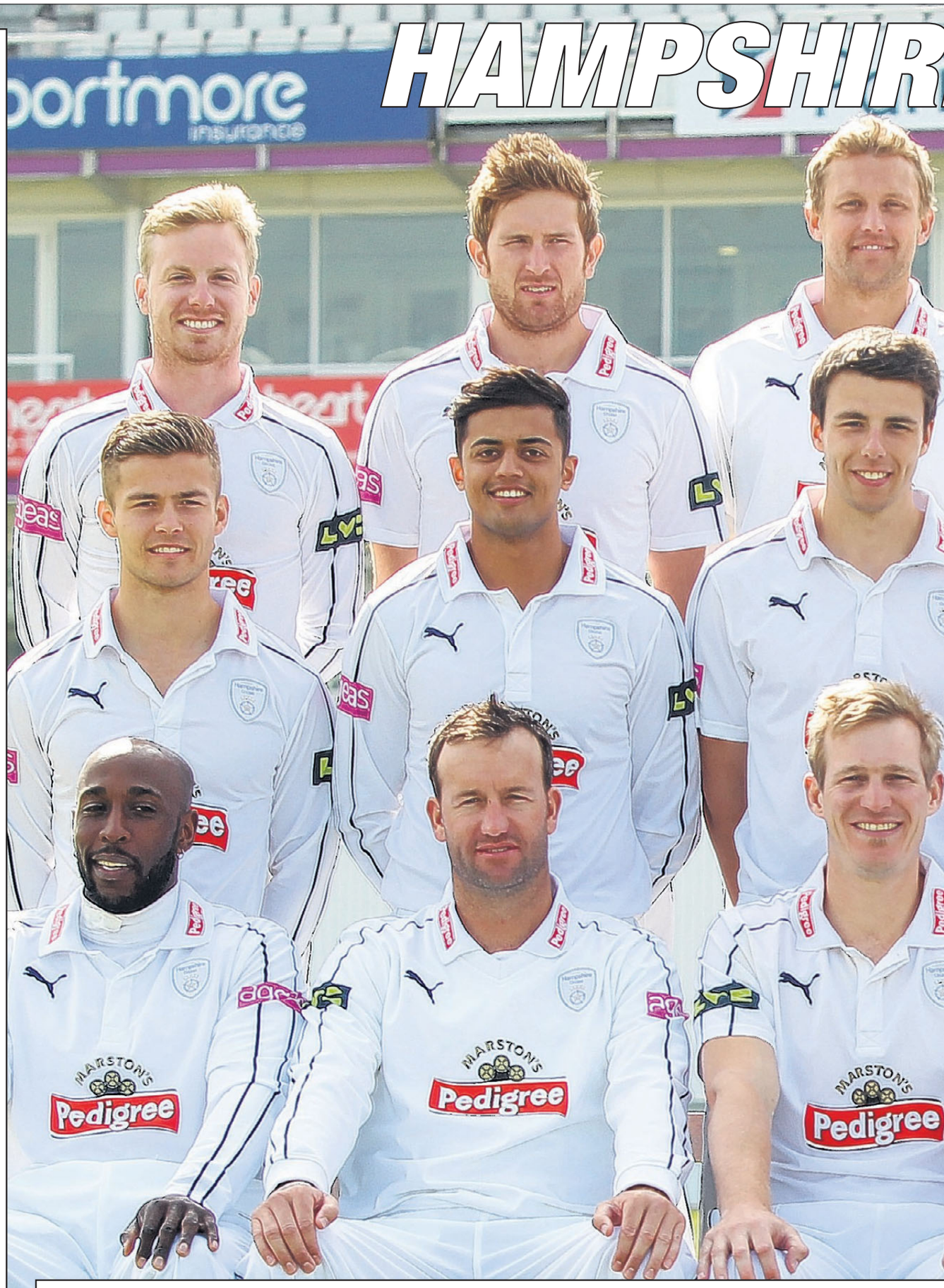
AUGUST

1 Middlesex (h) 50L
2 Glamorgan (Swalec) 50L
4 Essex (h) ..... 50L – f
5 Warwickshire (Edgbaston) ..... 50L – f
7-10 Warwickshire (h) CC
17 Lancashire (h) ..... 50L – f
19 Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge) 50L - f

SEPTEMBER

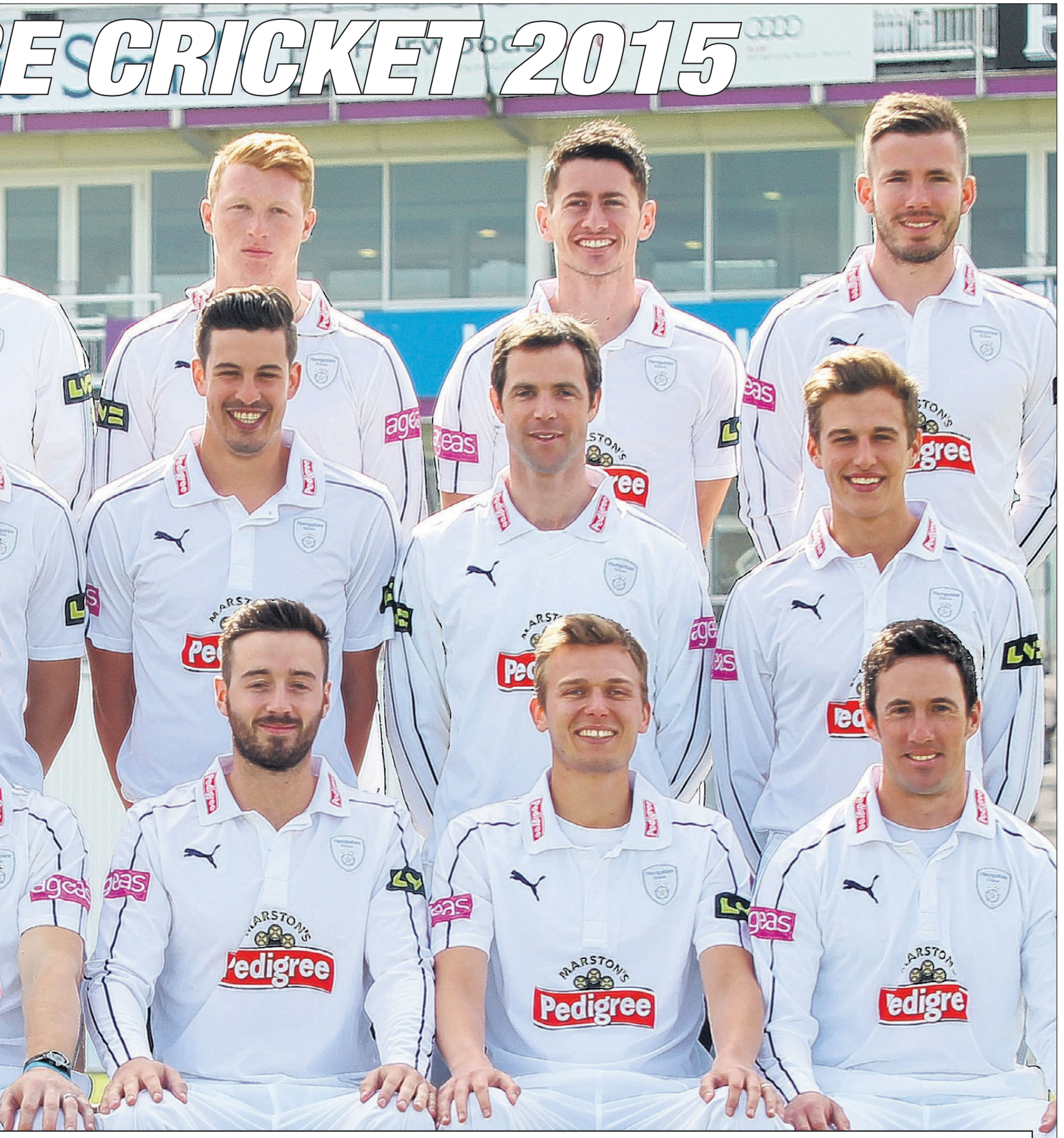
1-4 Durham (Riverside) LVCC
9-12 Somerset (Taunton) CC
14-17 Yorkshire (h) CC
22-25 Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge) CC

Key LVCC: LV County Championship T20: Twenty20 50L: Royal London One-Day Cup f: floodlit



BACK ROW: Adam Wheater, Liam Dawson, Gareth Berg, Tom Alsop, Sean Terry, Joe Ga
FRONT ROW: Michael Carberry, Sean Ervine, Jimmy Adams, James Vince, Danny Briggs

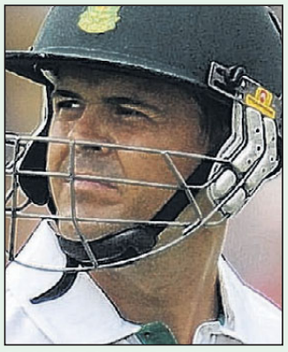
E CRICKET 2015



tting. **MIDDLE ROW:** Lewis McManus, Basil Akram, Tom Barber, Chris Wood, James Tomlinson, Brad Wheal.
, Will Smith.

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

WHO'S WHO IN THE



GLAMORGAN RETURN: Jacques Rudolph.

From page 23

DURHAM

Overseas player 2014: Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka); John Hastings (Australia); Varun Aaron (India)

Overseas player 2015: John Hastings (Australia)

Ins: none

Outs: Gareth Breese (REL)

ESSEX

Overseas player 2014: Jesse Ryder (New Zealand)
Overseas player 2015: Jesse Ryder (New Zealand), Shaun Tait (Australia, for T20)

Ins: Callum Taylor (YTH), Liam Gough (trial, will be registered for first team), Aron Nijjar (trial, June-Sep), Saf Imtiaz (trial, 2015 season)

Outs: Ben Foakes (Surrey), Sajid Mahmood (REL), Tom Craddock (REL), Tim Phillips (RET), Tymal Mills (Sussex)

GLAMORGAN

Overseas player 2014: Jacques Rudolph (South Africa); Darren Sammy (West Indies)

Overseas player 2015: Jacques Rudolph (South Africa)

Ins: James Kettleborough (Northants), Craig Meschede (Somerset, season-long loan), Colin Ingram (KPK)

Outs: Murray Goodwin (RET), Gareth Rees (RET), Stewart Walters (REL), Tom Lancefield (REL), Mike Reed (REL), Jim Allenby (Somerset)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Michael Klinger (Australia); Mark Craig (New Zealand)

Overseas player 2015: Michael Klinger (Australia, from June)

Ins: Tom Hampton (Buckinghamshire), Kieran Noema-Barnett (UKP), Geraint Jones (Kent), Peter Handscomb (UKP)

Outs: Will Gidman (Nottinghamshire), Alex Gidman (Worcestershire), Graeme McCarter (REL)

Continued on facing page

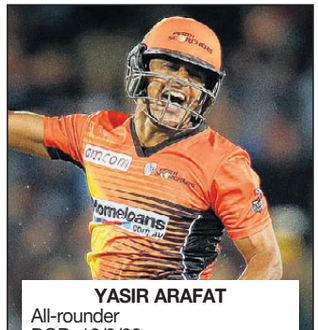
JIMMY ADAMS
Club captain, left-handed batsman
DOB: 23/9/80
First-class: 11,134 runs at 39.34
One-day: 2,978 runs at 39.7
T20: 2,444 runs at 25.45

JAMES VINCE
One-day captain, right-handed batsman
DOB: 14/3/91
First-class: 5636 runs at 43.68
One day: 2574 runs at 35.75
T20: 1856 runs at 27.7

ANDRE ADAMS
All-rounder
DOB: 17/7/75
First-class: 683 wickets at 23.74; 4482 runs at 21.44
One-day: 209 wickets at 28.5; 1504 runs at 16.71
T20: 87 wickets at 22; 417 runs at 14.89

BASIL AKRAM
Right arm fast-medium
DOB: 23/2/93
First-class: two wickets at 121

TOM ALSOP
Left-handed batsman
DOB: 26/11/95
First-class: 50 runs at 12.5



YASIR ARAFAT
All-rounder
DOB: 12/3/82
First-class: 773 wickets at 24.14; 6784 runs at 27.13
One day: 393 wickets at 24.42; 2721 runs at 21.42
T20: 255 wickets at 21.18; 1156 runs at 14.45

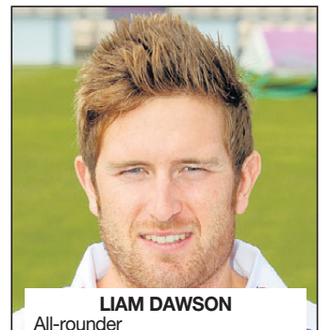
TOM BARBER
Left-arm fast-medium
DOB: 8/8/95
One-day: two wickets at 25

GARETH BERG
All-rounder
DOB: 18/1/81
First class: 2982 runs at 29.52; 141 wickets at 32.2
One day: 999 runs at 25.61; 40 wickets at 35.17
T20: 860 runs at 26.87; 44 wickets at 27.43

JACKSON BIRD
Right-arm fast-medium
DOB: 11/12/86
First-class: 133 wickets at 22.21
One-day: 8 wickets at 34.62
T20: 28 wickets at 22.35

DANNY BRIGGS
Slow left-armer
DOB: 30/4/91
First-class: 172 wickets at 31.55
One-day: 69 wickets at 34.65
T20: 108 wickets at 19.94

MICHAEL CARBERRY
Left-handed batsman
DOB: 29/9/80
First-class: 11,704 runs at 43.5
One-day: 4,470 runs at 33.11
T20: 2799 runs at 31.8

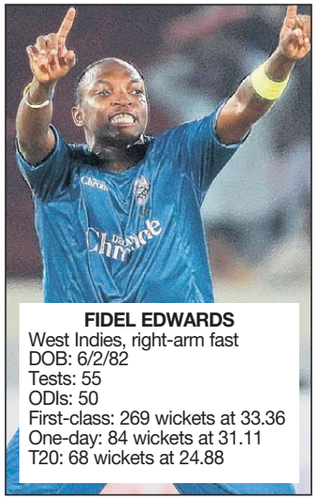


LIAM DAWSON
All-rounder
DOB: 1/3/90
First-class: 4,301 runs at 33.6, 84 wickets at 36.57
One-day: 1,856 runs at 27.7; 66 wickets at 38.51
T20: 347 runs at 12.39; 34 wickets at 29.61

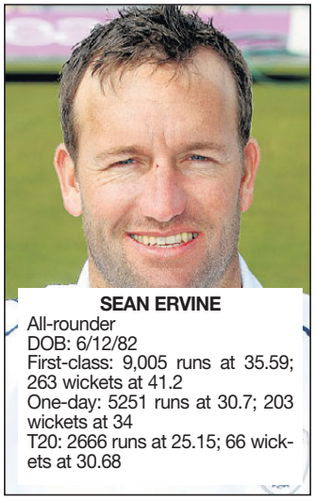
FIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR THIS SEASON – SEE PAGE 31

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

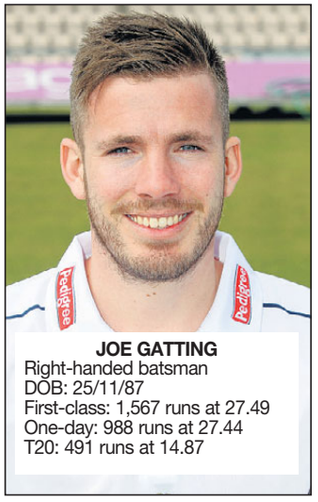
HAMPSHIRE SQUAD?



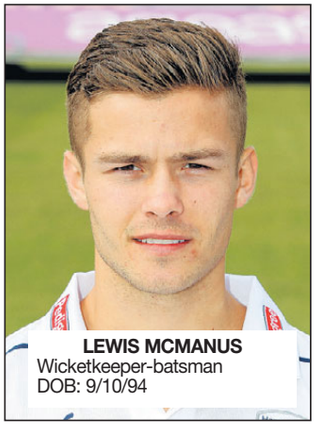
FIDEL EDWARDS
West Indies, right-arm fast
DOB: 6/2/82
Tests: 55
ODIs: 50
First-class: 269 wickets at 33.36
One-day: 84 wickets at 31.11
T20: 68 wickets at 24.88



SEAN ERVINE
All-rounder
DOB: 6/12/82
First-class: 9,005 runs at 35.59; 263 wickets at 41.2
One-day: 5251 runs at 30.7; 203 wickets at 34
T20: 2666 runs at 25.15; 66 wickets at 30.68



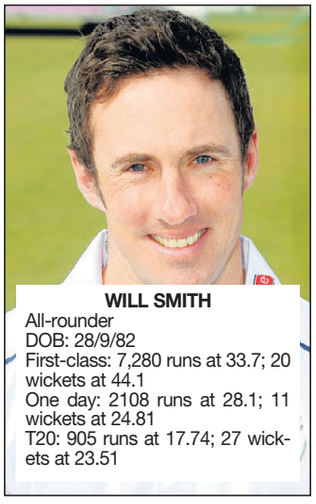
JOE GATTING
Right-handed batsman
DOB: 25/11/87
First-class: 1,567 runs at 27.49
One-day: 988 runs at 27.44
T20: 491 runs at 14.87



LEWIS MCMANUS
Wicketkeeper-batsman
DOB: 9/10/94

COMPILED BY MICHAEL ARNOTT

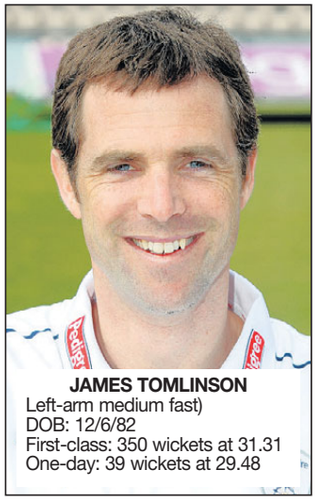
OWAIS SHAH
DOB: 22/10/78
T20: 5,096 runs at 33.52



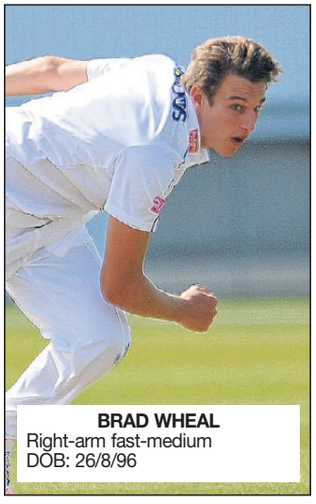
WILL SMITH
All-rounder
DOB: 28/9/82
First-class: 7,280 runs at 33.7; 20 wickets at 44.1
One day: 2108 runs at 28.1; 11 wickets at 24.81
T20: 905 runs at 17.74; 27 wickets at 23.51

BRAD TAYLOR
Off-spinner
DOB: 14/3/97
First-class: five wickets at 36
One-day: 4 wickets at 18

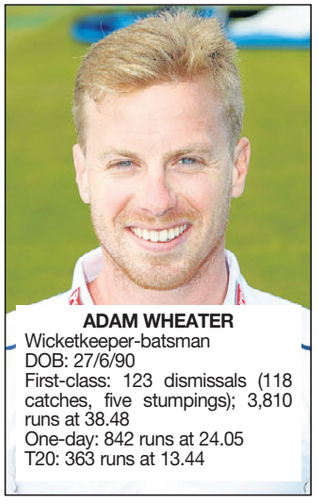
SEAN TERRY
Right-handed batsman)
DOB: 1/8/91
First-class: 208 runs at 34.66
One-day: 161 runs at 32.2



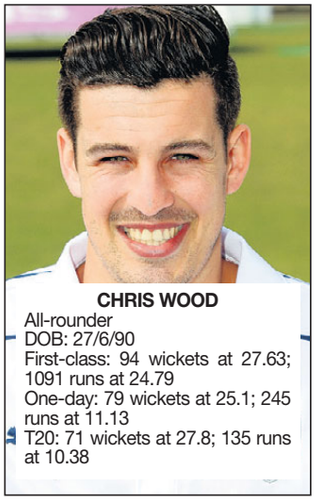
JAMES TOMLINSON
Left-arm medium fast)
DOB: 12/6/82
First-class: 350 wickets at 31.31
One-day: 39 wickets at 29.48



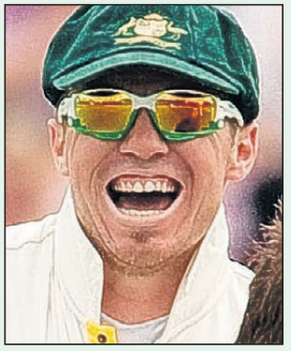
BRAD WHEAL
Right-arm fast-medium
DOB: 26/8/96



ADAM WHEATER
Wicketkeeper-batsman
DOB: 27/6/90
First-class: 123 dismissals (118 catches, five stumpings); 3,810 runs at 38.48
One-day: 842 runs at 24.05
T20: 363 runs at 13.44



CHRIS WOOD
All-rounder
DOB: 27/6/90
First-class: 94 wickets at 27.63; 1091 runs at 24.79
One-day: 79 wickets at 25.1; 245 runs at 11.13
T20: 71 wickets at 27.8; 135 runs at 10.38



LANCASHIRE DEAL: Peter Siddle.

From facing page

HAMPSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Kyle Abbott (South Africa); Glenn Maxwell (Australia); Nathan Rimmington (Australia), Imran Tahir (South Africa)

Overseas player 2015: Jackson Bird (Australia, first three months of season); Yasir Arafat (Pakistan, for one-day cricket); Fidel Edwards (West Indies, second half of season)

Ins: Andre Adams (Nottinghamshire, on short-term deal as player-coach), Yasir Arafat (Sussex), Gareth Berg (Middlesex), Owais Shah (free agent), Fidel Edwards

Outs: David Balcombe (Surrey), Michael Bates (REL), Ruel Brathwaite (REL), Matt Coles (Kent)

KENT

Overseas player 2014: Doug Bollinger (Australia)

Overseas player 2015: TBC

Ins: Sam Weller (YTH), Ryan Davies (YTH), Joe Denly (Middlesex), Matt Coles (Hampshire)

Outs: Geraint Jones (Gloucestershire), Mark Davies (RET)

LANCASHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Junaid Khan (Pakistan); Usman Khawaja (Australia)

Overseas player 2015: Peter Siddle (Australia, start of season until July), James Faulkner (as cover if for Peter Siddle)

Ins: Nathan Buck (Leicestershire), Haseeb Hameed (YTH), Matthew Parkinson (YTH), Saqib Mahmood (YTH), George Edwards (Surrey), Alviro Petersen (KPK)

Outs: Andrea Agathangelou (REL), Oliver Newby (REL), Kabir Ali (REL), Wayne White (Derbyshire)

LEICESTERSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Ramnaresh Sarwan (West Indies); Scott Styris (New Zealand)

Overseas player 2015: Clint McKay (Australia, from 26 April), Grant Elliott (New Zealand, for T20, initially for first 10 matches)

Continued on page 28

IS BRAD THE WHEAL DEAL – SEE PAGE 34

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

HAMPSHIRE MOVE: Gareth Berg.

From page 27

Ins: Aadil Ali (YTH), Zak Chappell (YTH), Neil Pinner (YTH), Mark Cosgrove (UKP)

Outs: Shiv Thakor (Derbyshire), Nathan Buck (Lancashire), Josh Cobb (Northants), Greg Smith (Nottinghamshire), Anthony Ireland (REL), Michael Thornely (REL)

MIDDLESEX

Overseas player 2014: Chris Rogers (Australia), Dan Christian (Australia)

Overseas player 2015: Adam Voges (Australia)

Ins: Max Holden (YTH), George Scott (YTH), Robbie White (YTH), Nick Compton (Somerset), James Franklin (New Zealand - as EUP, subject to ECB approval)

Outs: Gareth Berg (Hampshire), Adam Rossington (Northants), Ollie Wilkin (REL), Joe Denly (Kent)

One-time Hampshire batsman Adam Voges will replace fellow Australian Chris Rogers as Middlesex's Championship captain.

NORTHANTS

Overseas player 2014: Richard Levi (South Africa), Ian Butler (New Zealand), Neil Wagner (New Zealand)

Overseas player 2015: Rory Kleinveldt (South Africa), Shahid Afridi (Pakistan, for T20 until mid-June)

Ins: Josh Cobb (Leicestershire), Adam Rossington (Middlesex), Saif Zaib (YTH), Richard Levi (KPK)

Outs: David Sales (RET), Andrew Hall (REL), Matthew Spriegel (RET), James Middlebrook (REL), James Kettleborough (Glamorgan)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Peter Siddle (Australia); James Franklin (New Zealand)

Overseas player 2015: Vernon Philander (South Africa, start of season until early June), Ben Hilfenhaus (Australia, from early June), Darren Sammy (West Indies, for T20 from 31 May-12 June)

Ins: Will Gidman (Gloucestershire), Greg Smith (Leicestershire), Brendan Taylor (Zimbabwe, as KPK, subject to ECB approval)

Continued on facing page

Simon Carter
simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk
SPORTS EDITOR

IT is one of the hardest sporting competitions to predict.

It is the division where teams who win the the title one year are relegated the next.

It is a division where teams promoted into it from the second tier can end up winning the title at the first attempt.

That rules out football's Premier League, obviously.

Never in the history of the English top flight has the defending champions been demoted 12 months later.

And the last club to win the top flight at the first time of asking was Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest in 1977/78.

No, it is cricket's County Championship top division that I am talking about.

There have been five different winners in the last five seasons – Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Warwickshire, Durham and Yorkshire.

Throw in Sussex, who won it in 2007, and there have been six different winners in the last eight seasons.

Compare that to the Premier League, where in the same period there have been three champions – the two Manchester clubs and Chelsea.

In 2001, Yorkshire won the County Championship title. Somerset were runners-up

Twelve months later Yorkshire were relegated. And so were Somerset.

Imagine that scenario happening in the Premier League? Or rugby union's Premiership?

In 2004, Nottinghamshire won the second tier of the Championship with Hampshire, skippered for the first time that summer by Shane Warne, also promoted as runners-up.

Twelve months later, in the memorable 2005 Ashes-winning season, Nottinghamshire won the title. And Hampshire were second.

It's the equivalent of Leicester and Burnley finishing first and second in the Premier League this season.

In 2006, 12 months after being crowned the champion county, Notts were relegated.

And so it goes on.

Sussex won the Championship in 2006 and 2007, yet in 2008 were relegated.

Lancashire won the title in 2011 – remarkably, their first outright title win since 1934 – yet were relegated a year later.

Promoted in 2013, the Red Rose county went down again in 2014.

Such inconsistencies are rife.

Worcestershire, for example, have been relegated four times since 2004, and promoted four times.

Yorkshire were demoted from the top flight in 2011 along with Hampshire, yet within three years had been crowned champions for a record 31st time (they have also shared the title once).

With all that in mind, who could possibly put money on the destination of the 2015 silverware and the £500,000 cheque that goes with it.

Yes, half a million pounds for the best team in English cricket.

Compared to the riches available in the football Premier League.

Until only a few years ago, the winners of cricket's Championship – the ultimate honour in the domestic game – received only £100,000.

PAST FORM: Michael Carberry

There are many Premier League footballers earning more than that in a week.

Even as recently as 2007, the runners-up in the cricket Championship banked a paltry £40,000.

Now they receive around £225,000 – still a pittance compared to what the Premier League runners-up will bank.

Of course, though, in a way there is no point making such comparisons.

Premier League games are watched by tens of thousands of people, and cricket County Championship games aren't.

At times, there will only be a few hundred at county grounds up and down the country watching some of the nation's best players.

That is life of the county cricket professional with regards to the first class game.

It has been that way for countless years now, and will almost certainly remain so.

Nevertheless, that doesn't make the competition any less thrilling, or unpredictable.

With regards to the forthcoming season, the main question locally is whether Hampshire can re-establish themselves as a real force in the four-day game.

It wasn't that long ago that they were one of the best teams in the country.

In 2005 they finished runners-up, only a couple of points behind champions Nottinghamshire.

And that was in a season where tal-

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HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

IMPOSSIBLE GAME TO PREDICT

SNAP HAPPY: Some sponsors get a selfie with the Hampshire squad

ismanic skipper Shane Warne missed a large chunk of games due to his Ashes commitments.

Hampshire were also denied the services of Simon Katich and Kevin Pietersen for the same reason.

Had those three been available for a few more games, the title would almost certainly have arrived for the first time since 1973.

Hampshire were also third in 2006 and 2008, while they were fifth in 2007 – the latter the last year Warne appeared for them.

The county certainly have the players to do well in the top flight, based on previous form.

Skipper Jimmy Adams, Michael Carberry and Will Smith have both scored over 1,000 top flight Championship runs before.

TOP WICKET-TAKER: James Tomlinson

James Vince has been tipped as one of the most promising batsmen in county cricket for several years now, and so this is a big season for him coming up.

He scored more Championship runs in 2014 – 1,524 – than anyone else.

Yet he scored them in the second tier, and there is a big difference between the standard of some teams in the top flight and the next division down.

Bowling-wise, James Tomlinson was the Championship's top wicket-taker in 2008 with 67 victims.

The Winchester-born seamer turns 33 this summer and will be keen to show he can still be a major threat to top flight batsmen.

With Hampshire having recently lost Matt Coles back to Kent, Tomlinson's experience of English conditions will be vital.

Australian Test quickie Jackson Bird is Hampshire's early-season overseas player.

This is his first stint in English county cricket, and many eyes will be on him.

Bird was supposed to start the 2014 county season with Northamptonshire, but he had to pull out due to a recurrence of a back injury.

The player has recovered enough to play seven games for Tasmania in the 2014/15 Sheffield Shield, taking 18 wickets at 33.27.

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PEDIGREE: Sussex signing Mahela Jayawardene.

From facing page

Outs: Phil Jaques (REL), Andre Adams (Hampshire), Sam Kelsall (REL), Ajmal Shahzad (Sussex).

SOMERSET

Overseas player 2014: Alviro Petersen (South Africa), Dirk Nannes (Australia); Colin Ingram (South Africa)

Overseas player 2015: Abdur Rehman (Pakistan), Sohail Tanvir (Pakistan, for first half of T20 season), Corey Anderson (New Zealand, for second half of T20 season after NZ tour of England), Chris Gayle (first six T20 games).

Ins: Tim Groenewald (Derbyshire), Ollie Sale (YTH), Tim Rouse (YTH), Sam Wyatt-Haines (YTH), Jim Allenby (Glamorgan), Tom Cooper (EUP)

Outs: James Burke (Surrey), Nick Compton (Middlesex), Craig Meschede (Glamorgan, season-long loan)

SURREY

Overseas player 2014: Graeme Smith (South Africa), Robin Peterson (South Africa), Hashim Amla (South Africa), Tillakaratne Dilshan (Sri Lanka)

Overseas player 2015: Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)

Ins: Ben Foakes (Essex), James Burke (Somerset), David Balcombe (Hampshire), Kevin Pietersen (free agent)

Outs: Tom Jewell (REL), Kevin O'Brien (had been contracted for T20), Jack Winslade (REL), George Edwards (Lancashire).

SUSSEX

Overseas player 2014: Steve Magoffin (Australia); Yasir Arafat (Pakistan)

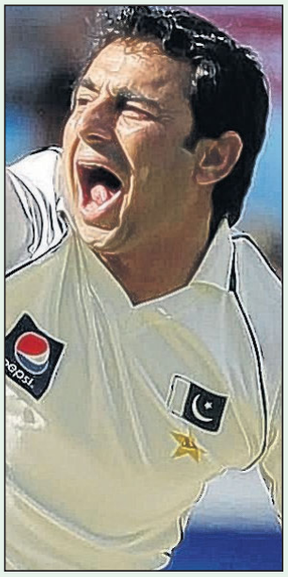
Overseas player 2015: Steve Magoffin (Australia); Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka, for first half of T20 competition)

Ins: Tymal Mills (Essex), Ajmal Shahzad (Nottinghamshire)

Outs: Yasir Arafat (Hampshire), Jon Lewis (RET, is to become bowling coach), Rory Hamilton-Brown (RET)

Continued on page 30

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



SPIN THREAT: Warwickshire's Saeed Ajmal.

From facing page 29

WARWICKSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Jeetan Patel (New Zealand); Shoaib Malik (Pakistan)

Overseas player 2015: Jeetan Patel (New Zealand)

Ins: none

Outs: Jim Troughton (retired)

WORCESTERSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Saeed Ajmal (Pakistan); Colin Munro (New Zealand); Mitchell McClenaghan (New Zealand)

Overseas player 2015: Colin Munro (New Zealand, for T20); Saeed Ajmal (Pakistan, for second half of season but possibly earlier depending on international commitments)

Ins: Alex Gidman (Gloucestershire)

Outs: Nick Harrison (REL), Matt Pardoe (REL), Graeme Cessford (REL)

YORKSHIRE

Overseas player 2014: Kane Williamson (New Zealand); Aaron Finch (Australia)

Overseas player 2015: Younus Khan (Pakistan, start of season until Finch arrives); Aaron Finch (Australia, from end of May after IPL); Glenn Maxwell (Australia, for T20); Kane Williamson (New Zealand, for last three County Championship matches of season)

Ins: Josh Shaw (YTH)

Outs: Azeem Rafiq (REL)

KEY
KPK: Kolpak contract, REL: Released, RET: Retired, YTH: From youth teams, EUP: European Union passport
UKP: Recently obtained UK passport.

WILL WHITE ROSES WILT?

CHAMPIONS: But will Andrew Gale be lifting the trophy again this year?

THE new LV= County Championship season begins this weekend.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at some of the main talking points for the season ahead.

CAN YORKSHIRE RETAIN THEIR TITLE, EVEN WITH SO MANY ENGLAND CALL-UPS LIKELY TO AFFECT THEM?

Yorkshire already know for sure six of their best will be away in the Caribbean with England during their first three Division One fixtures.

And, such is the schedule facing the national team this summer, it is highly unlikely the White Rose personnel will ever be in full bloom.

Captain Andrew Gale will miss the season opener at Worcestershire too, as he completes his controversial disciplinary ban from the end of last term.

Gale picked up a two-match ban after bad-mouthing Ashwell Prince in Yorkshire's match against Lancashire, his second such offence of the season.

As a result of missing the last game of the campaign, the ECB also stopped him collecting the trophy in the official post-match presentation ceremony.

After watching Joe Root collect the trophy and pose for photographs from the dressing-room balcony, Gale then came out to hold the trophy aloft to the throngs of Yorkshire supporters.

They responded with the biggest cheer of the day.

Yorkshire's initial task in the new season will be to harness any frustration – especially if several of their stars are carrying the many drinks in the Caribbean - and make sure their defence gets off to a sound start.

It is their batting stocks which will be hit most, but there were strong hints in their curtain-raiser win over the MCC that there is strength in depth to compensate.

Yorkshire retain a formidable force with the ball, but will be hoping they see their fair share of Adil Rashid's leg-spin as the season progresses.

A 32nd outright title is a distinct possibility.

WHO ARE THE MOST PLAUSIBLE CONTENDERS TO USURP THE WHITE ROSE?

Warwickshire finished closest last year, while third-placed Sussex have made some eye-catching additions to their seam attack.

It could be the sternest challenge comes from Nottinghamshire, though.

Gale returns for the first time when Yorkshire head to Trent Bridge for their second match of the campaign.

Nottinghamshire had to watch their neighbours parade the championship silverware in front of their own pavilion last September - but their time may soon come.

It is hard to spot their weakness, and they have made another clutch of canny signings in the close season.

WHICH OVERSEAS PLAYERS WILL DO THE BUSINESS?

Nottinghamshire's seam-and-swing pair of Vernon Philander and Ben Hilfenhaus, set to dovetail through the summer, will surely love their new home conditions.

In Division Two, it is hard to look past Kumar Sangakkara for banker impact at The Oval.

Gloucestershire's Peter Handscomb is an undoubted rising star who captures the imagination, and Derbyshire signing Martin Guptill's stock has risen dramatically of late.

Guptill was one of the stars of the recent World Cup, smashing a sensational 237 not out for New Zealand in their quarter final victory over the West Indies.

His ODI batting average of 39.77 is much better than his Test one of 29.62, though.

... AND WHICH ONES HAVE POINTS TO PROVE?

This seems a churlish category.

But of those with challenges to face, it will be interesting to see how brilliant Pakistani off-spinner Saeed Ajmal fares in 2015 as promoted Worcestershire's long-serving overseas after updating his action.

There is also the qurestion as to whether Jesse Ryder can be a big hit at Essex again following another awkward winter.

WILL HEAVYWEIGHTS LANCASHIRE AND SURREY REGAIN TOP-FLIGHT STATUS?

Surrey's campaign will not be all about Kevin Pietersen, of course.

Nonetheless, his mere presence will have an inevitable impact.

There will be no low-profile matches for the Londoners while he is around - and they will need to make sure they deal with the spotlight and the KP roadshow does not become a distraction.

If the record-breaking batsman clicks, however, for Surrey it can only be good while it lasts – before Pietersen achieves or abandons his goal of a Test return.

There will be none of that with Sangakkara - and, still apparently at the height of his powers, he seems the safest of bets to keep churning out the runs.

Who takes the wickets could be more of a problem - and not one obviously facing Lancashire, even though Peter Siddle will miss the majority of the campaign due to his commitments with Australia.

Tom Smith looks a very sensible choice as a new, home-grown captain - and Lancashire the likelier to edge this battle and bounce back from last summer's relegation.

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET COVERAGE APPEARS IN THE PINK EVERY WEEKEND

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

FIVE TO WATCH OUT FOR...

EYE-CATCHING SIGNING: Kumar Sangakkara will be at Surrey this season

FIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2015

JACK BROOKS (Yorkshire): Brooks had all the credentials of a crowd favourite at Headingley when he moved from Northamptonshire.

The Headband Warrior's first season was promising, but interrupted by injury.

Last year, he delivered with 68 wickets towards Yorkshire's championship title.

Brooks' roots in 'village cricket' are perhaps a little misleading - Tiddington play in a decent league - but he has come a long way nonetheless, with power to add to the delight of his new public.

SAM HAIN (Warwickshire): You would need to look to Ian Bell at the start of the century for the last time the nods and knowing looks at Edgbaston told a similar story about a teenage batsman.

In just his fifth first-class innings last summer, Hong Kong-born Hain broke Bell's record as the Bears' youngest championship centurion - and soon followed up by becoming the youngest to make a double-hundred.

It is the way he does it too that has already convinced many good judges Hain will play for England - his stated ambition despite formative years in Australia, where he represented the national Under-19s.

Expect a second summer of significant progression.

TYMAL MILLS (Sussex): England's World Cup experience has taught them a few things - not least that they need variety in their attack in all formats.

It may be a more pressing requirement with a white ball but there is no doubt any decent set of figures from a left-arm seamer this summer will be relayed pronto to Lord's.

Reece Topley at Essex and Derbyshire's Mark Footitt, after his wonderful 2014, will be on the radar among others.

Mills has the pace - if not yet the figures - enough to send Graeme Swann off for an unscheduled X-ray at the start of an Ashes summer, in 2013.

If as with others, a move to Sussex pays off for the former Essex bowler, 22-year-old Mills could find himself on the fast track.

KUMAR SANGAKKARA (Surrey): Kevin Pietersen will have his own Oval roadshow, of course - in early season at least.

But of all the eye-catching overseas signings, Sri Lanka great Sangakkara is surely the banker bet.

Since announcing the last lap of his international career, 'Sanga' went up another level with a brilliant run of one-day international scores, including at the World Cup where he scored four centuries – 105 v Bangladesh, 117 not out v England, 104 v Australia and 124 v Scotland.

At 37, before his anticipated final Test assignment against Pakistan in August, he will be determined to add to his already outstanding CV containing over 14,000 ODI runs and 12,200 Test runs (including 38 centuries).

NICK COMPTON (Middlesex): 'Compton's Return to Lord's' sounds like a throwback headline, of course.

But the former Somerset opener has earned the right to his own newsprint, 'clicks' and 'likes'.

Compton has been prolific at Taunton for the past three seasons - more than 1,000 runs each summer.

Whatever the exact reasoning for his decision to part company and then return to Middlesex, at 31 it could yet be another twist en route to more international recognition.

The fashion may be for faster scoring in all formats, and England appear to have said farewell after Compton's sudden fall from favour before the 2013 Ashes.

His Test statistics were far from disastrous, though; the Test top order remains unsettled, and – in a different context – incoming England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Colin Graves has been at pains to stress a clean slate for all.

At any rate, presumably opening with another England discard Sam Robson, Compton can expect some column inches back in the capital.

Impossible to predict

From page 31

Hampshire also produced a minor surprise in the close season when they announced the short-term signing of veteran seamer Andre Adams.

The 39-year-old New Zealander Adams, 39, will spend three months at The Ageas Bowl before taking up a coaching role in Auckland.

He underwent knee surgery during the winter, and it is not known how much of a role he will have in his limited time at West End.

Adams was not the only thirtysomething to arrive at Hampshire in the close season.

A few weeks ago the county announced the signing of 34-year-old Gareth Berg from Middlesex.

He averages almost 30 with the bat from 72 first class games, and has also taken 141 first class wickets.

The South African was included in a strong-looking Hampshire XI that played against Loughborough University last week, and is therefore in line to face Sussex in the opening Championship game this weekend.

Overall, Hampshire should have enough about them to avoid relegation.

But who knows? That is the great thing about the County Championship, as I illustrated earlier.

I don't know. You don't know.

Hampshire could go straight back down, they could end up challenging for the title.

There are certainly players with something to prove.

Not least Michael Carberry, whose England Test career is almost certainly now over.

He can get down to scoring a bucketful of first class runs to show the selectors they were wrong to jettison him.

With regards to the one-day game, Hampshire again look strong.

Over the past decade, they have been one of the strongest and most consistent counties.

They have lifted three one-day trophies at Lord's – in 2005, 2009 and 2012 – as well as two T20 titles in 2010 and 2012.

They have been to the T20 finals day five years running, a superb achievement.

The addition of Yasir Arafat looks a canny signing given the player's huge experience of English conditions.

Glenn Maxwell, fresh from helping Australia win the World Cup, won't be returning for a third t20 stint with Hampshire in 2015.

Instead, he will be turning out for Yorkshire.

Maxwell was a huge disappointment in the shortest form of the game for Hampshire last year, though.

The county don't appear to have a box office star of the same ilk as Maxwell or Shahid Afridi this year.

But they have a winning formula in T20 cricket, honed over many years, and they are very hard to beat.

CALL CRICKET WRITER SIMON WALTER ON 023 8042 4482

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 1 FIXTURES 2015

Sunday 12 April
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Sussex
Lord's: Middlesex v Nottinghamshire
Taunton: Somerset v Durham
New Road: Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Sunday 19 April
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire
Hove: Sussex v Worcestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Hampshire

Sunday 26 April
Emirates: Durham v Sussex
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
Taunton: Somerset v Middlesex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

Saturday 2 May
Lord's: Middlesex v Durham

Sunday 3 May
New Road: Worcestershire v Somerset

Saturday 9 May
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Worcestershire

Sunday 10 May
Emirates: Durham v Nottinghamshire
Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Hampshire

Sunday 17 May
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Somerset
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Durham

Sunday 24 May
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire

BIG NAME: Vernon Philander has signed for Notts.

Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire
New Road: Worcestershire v Durham

Sunday 31 May
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Worcestershire
Lord's: Middlesex v Warwickshire

Monday 1 June
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

Sunday 7 June
Emirates: Durham v Somerset
Hove: Sussex v Hampshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Middlesex

Sunday 14 June
Taunton: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
New Road: Worcestershire v Warwickshire

Monday 15 June
Arundel: Sussex v Durham

Sunday 21 June
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Somerset
Uxbridge: Middlesex v Worcestershire

Monday 22 June
Headingley: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

Sunday 28 June
Emirates: Durham v Yorkshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Hampshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Sussex

Monday 29 June
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

continued on facing page

RICH PICKINGS

LOVELY BUBBLY: Yorkshire celebrate winning last season's Division One County Championship.

Reigning champions look set to overcome losing England six

THE 'Bank of Colin Graves' has closed, but there could still be rich dividends on the pitch again for Yorkshire this summer.

Six of the best from the White Rose, of course, will be missing for at least their first four LV= County Championship Division One matches – and it is six years since Durham became the last team to rack up successive titles, ***writes DAVID CLOUGH.***

Graves has swapped Headingley for Lord's and will officially begin his tenure as the England and Wales Cricket Board's new chairman next month.

He made it clear – at Yorkshire's annual general meeting last week, as he bade farewell to the club in which he has invested so heavily – that it is time for those he leaves behind to continue his work.

But there is an undoubted will to do so and, even in the absence of those six initially on England duty for the Test tour of West Indies this month and next, the playing resources remain too.

Certainly, that was the evidence of Yorkshire's resounding win over MCC in the mid-March curtain-raiser fixture in Abu Dhabi.

Seam linchpin Jack Brooks and emerging batsman Jack Leaning both made encouraging contributions there for a team led by young opener Alex Lees – all of whom will be available when Yorkshire begin the defence of their 31st title away to promoted Worcestershire this Sunday.

Club captain Andrew Gale will again be relegated to spectator capacity at New Road, as he was controversially when Yorkshire clinched last summer's silverware at Trent Bridge, completing his ECB disciplinary ban.

Even so, as long as Yorkshire can channel any frustration over that and their men away in the Caribbean through a tricky set of early fixtures, they will surely be major contenders again this summer.

Their return to Nottinghamshire, for just their second match of the campaign, will bring an ironic twist as Gale makes his comeback at the venue where he was prevented from joining the celebrations last September.

It could also prove a pivotal match - because Notts, fourth last time round, look as potent a force as any to stand in the way of a White Rose follow-up.

In Vernon Philander, and then Ben Hilfenhaus, they have recruited cannily a horses-for-courses package at a home ground where each of the two new Test class seam-and-swing bowlers should prosper.

Brendan Taylor, on a non-overseas contract but with Test pedigree, has the class too to make lots of runs in England - while James Taylor retains obvious Test aspirations and will be making sure the selectors have to take notice.

Others, notably Samit Patel even if England are no longer interested in his considerable talents, give Notts a very solid look.

Of the other title contenders, recent winners Warwickshire were runners-up last time and again enter consideration, while Sussex - who have made two eye-catching but far from banker signings in Tymal Mills and Ajmal Shahzad - could be gearing up for another challenge.

Middlesex's hopes of security have been hit by Adam Voges' Ashes call-up.

They, like relegated Lancashire who lost Peter Siddle for the same reason at the 11th hour, are urgently seeking an effective replacement.

It will be easy for neither, and both the Londoners' well-being in the top flight and Lancashire's prospects of bouncing back may have suffered a lasting blow.

There will be a significant return to Lord's, though, for Nick Compton - and it is not beyond the bounds that he could yet press for an England recall, depending on the fortunes of others ahead of him, through

HAMPSHIRE PLAYER PROFILES – TURN BACK TO PAGES 26-27

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

FOR YORKS?

weight of runs.

If some eyes in the capital will be turned towards Compton, though, many more will be trained over the river at another prodigal presence.

It will be inevitable that much early-season championship coverage is dominated not by the fortunes of champions Yorkshire, or anyone else in the top flight, but in Division Two - by Kevin Pietersen, and his success or otherwise back in four-day cricket for Surrey.

There is a bigger picture for Surrey, to try to retain the status their heavyweight history demands, and one of the hurdles will be to avoid early distractions from the KP roadshow and ensure others do not establish a telling advantage in the hectic opening weeks.

Essex, close to going up last time, are scheduled to be Pietersen's first Oval opponents at the end of this month - and they appeal too as a team that could be in the mix for promotion.

Most counties will have no more than five championship matches left through the last two months of the season, so banking points by then will be crucial in both divisions - especially if limited-overs prizes begin to enter the equation.

Notts, Warwickshire and Yorkshire are obvious candidates to be battling on two fronts or more by August.

Of those likeliest to stay the course, Yorkshire and Notts could be in for a tight tussle at the top.

And with or without any remaining Pietersen intrigue, on the back of plenty of runs from Kumar Sangakkara, Surrey ought to be well-positioned to rejoin them in the top flight.

David Clough is the Press Association's chief cricket writer.

LORDS RETURN: Nick Compton

Hampshire batsman Phil Mead is the most prolific all-time run-scorer in the County Championship, with an astonishing 46,268.

Top ten
46, 268 – Phil Mead (Hampshire)
43, 703 – Frank Woolley (Kent)
38, 737 – Jack Hobbs (Surrey)
37, 418 – Patsy Hendren (Middlesx)
32, 814 – Herbert Sutcliffe (Yorkshire)
31, 903 – George Tyldesley (Lancs)
31, 617 – Dennis Amiss (Warwicks)
31, 467 – Willie Quaife (Warwicks)
31, 375 – Don Kenyon (Worcs)
31, 344 – Wally Hammond (Gloucs)

RUN RECORD: Phil Mead

Kent spinner 'Tich' Freeman is the leading wicket-taker in Championship history with 3,151.

Top ten
3,151 - 'Tich' Freeman (Kent)
3,112 – Wilfred Rhodes (Yorkshire)
3,022 – Charlie Parker (Gloucs)
2,678 – Tom Goddard (Gloucs)
2,542 – Derek Shackleton (Hampshire)
2,418 – Alex Kennedy (Hampshire)
2,171 – Fred Titmus (Middlesex)
2,105 – Eric Hollies (Warwicks)
2,095 – George Hirst (Yorks)
2,080 – Jack White (Somerset)

Brian Lara's world record 501 not out, for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston in 1994, is the highest individual score.

The second and third highest innings were both scored against Somerset at Taunton.

Archie MacLaren compiled 424 for Lancashire in 1895, while Worcestershire's Graeme Hick struck 405 not out on the same ground 93 years later.

Yorkshire slow left-armer Hedley Verity's 10 for 10, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1932, remain the best bowling figures.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 1 FIXTURES 2015

from facing page

Sunday 5 July
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Middlesex
Taunton: Somerset v Sussex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Yorkshire

Monday 6 July
New Road: Worcestershire v Hampshire

Saturday 11 July
Northwood: Middlesex v Somerset

Sunday 12 July
Emirates: Durham v Warwickshire

Saturday 18 July
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Somerset

Sunday 19 July
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Durham
Horsham: Sussex v Nottinghamshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Worcestershire

Friday 7 August
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Warwickshire

Lord's: Middlesex v Sussex
New Road: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Durham

Friday 21 August
Emirates: Durham v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire
Taunton: Somerset v Worcestershire
Hove: Sussex v Yorkshire

Tuesday 1 September
Emirates: Durham v Hampshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Middlesex
New Road: Worcestershire v Sussex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Somerset

Wednesday 9 September
Lord's: Middlesex v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham
Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire

Monday 14 September
Emirates: Durham v Worcestershire
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Yorkshire
Hove: Sussex v Somerset
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

Tuesday 22 September
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Hampshire
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire
New Road: Worcestershire v Middlesex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Sussex

YORKSHIRE DEAL: Australia's Aaron Finch.

TABLES 2014

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	A	Bt	Bw	Adj	Pts
Yorkshire	16	8	1	7	0	48	44	0	255
Warwickshire	16	8	4	4	0	47	43	0	238
Sussex	16	6	4	5	1	44	40	0	210
Notts	16	6	6	4	0	50	40	0	206
Durham	16	5	4	7	0	42	42	0	199
Somerset	16	4	2	10	0	42	42	0	198
Middlesex	16	4	5	6	1	35	38	-2	170
Lancashire	16	3	6	7	0	30	41	0	154
Northants	16	0	12	4	0	27	32	0	79

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	A	Bt	Bw	Adj	Pts
Hampshire	**16**	**7**	**1**	**8**	**0**	**50**	**38**	**0**	**240**
Worcs	16	8	3	5	0	37	47	0	237
Essex	16	7	2	7	0	37	45	0	229
Derbyshire	16	6	5	5	0	26	41	0	188
Surrey	16	4	5	7	0	43	44	-3	183
Kent	16	4	6	6	0	35	42	0	171
Gloucs	16	4	5	7	0	28	36	0	163
Glamorgan	16	3	6	7	0	29	41	0	153
Leics	16	0	10	6	0	36	42	0	108

LIAM DAWSON INTERVIEW – SEE PAGE 34

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015

County Championship since 2000 (first year of two division structure)

2000
Div 1 champions: Surrey
Relegated: Hampshire, Durham, Derbyshire
Div 2 champions: Northamptonshire
Promoted: Essex, Glamorgan

2001
Div 1 champions: Yorkshire
Relegated: Northamptonshire, Glamorgan, Essex
Div 2 champions: Sussex
Promoted: Hampshire, Warwickshire

2002
Div 1 champions: Surrey
Relegated: Hampshire, Somerset, Yorkshire
Div 2 champions: Essex
Promoted: Middlesex, Nottinghamshire

2003
Div 1 champions: Sussex
Relegated: Essex, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire
Div 2 champions: Worcestershire
Promoted: Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire

2004
Div 1 champions: Warwickshire
Relegated: Worcestershire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire
Div 2 champions: Nottinghamshire
Promoted: Hampshire, Glamorgan

2005
Div 1 champions: Nottinghamshire
Relegated: Surrey, Gloucestershire, Glamorgan
Div 2 champions: Lancashire
Promoted: Durham, Yorkshire

2006
Div 1 champions: Sussex
Relegated: Nottinghamshire, Middlesex
Div 2 champions: Surrey
Promoted: Worcestershire

2007
Div 1 champions: Sussex
Relegated: Warwickshire, Worcestershire
Div 2 champions: Somerset
Promoted: Nottinghamshire

2008
Div 1 champions: Durham
Relegated: Kent, Surrey
Div 2 champions: Warwickshire
Promoted:: Worcestershire

2009
Div 1 champions: Durham
Relegated: Sussex, Worcestershire
Div 2 champions: Kent
Promoted: Essex

2010
Div 1 champions: Nottinghamshire
Relegated: Essex, Kent
Div 2 champions: Sussex
Promoted: Worcestershire

2011
Div 1 champions: Lancashire
Relegated: Hampshire, Yorkshire
Div 2 champions: Middlesex
Promoted: Surrey

2012
Div 1 champions: Warwickshire
Relegated: Lancashire, Worcestershire
Div 2 champions: Derbyshire
Promoted: Yorkshire

2013
Div 1 champions: Durham
Relegated: Derbyshire, Surrey
Div 2 champions: Lancashire
Promoted: Northamptonshire

2014
Div 1 champions: Yorkshire
Relegated: Northamptonshire, Lancashire
Div 2 champions: Hampshire
Promoted: Worcestershire

LIAM DAWSON

Dawson impressed by teenage speedster

HAMPSHIRE all-rounder Liam Dawson reckons Brad Wheal is one to watch this season.

The 25-year-old believes Hampshire have unearthed a gem in the teenage fast bowler from Natal.

"Brad Wheal's probably impressed me the most out of everyone, obviously never having seen him before," said Dawson. "I faced him in the nets a couple of days ago and he's a proper bowler. He's one to look out for that's for sure.

"For his age the way he thinks about the game is well ahead of his years. I think the length he bowls, at a decent pace, will make him very effective.

"He attacks the stumps and bowls a full length and doesn't bowl much rubbish. He bowls a length that has you thinking every ball.

"If he's right on it and there's something in the wicket he can make the most of it and the stronger he gets the and the more he learns about county cricket the better he'll be."

BIG WHEAL

Brad so quick to impress

PROMISE: Brad Wheal.
Picture courtesy of Dave Vokes (LMI Photography).

HE IS only 18 and is yet to play a first-class match, but it says much for Brad Wheal that he has created as exciting a first impression on his Hampshire teammates as the county's more experienced new signings.

Andre Adams, Jackson Bird, Yasir Arafat and Fidel Edwards have all played Test cricket but it is the lesser-known Wheal who has been the talk of the Ageas Bowl since arriving with Dale Benkenstein on a two-year development contract.

After taking two wickets in this week's friendly against Kent – both his victims were caught in the slips – no doubt word is already getting round the county circuit that Hampshire have found themselves a player.

Wheal is certainly ambitious. "I'd obviously like to break into the first team as soon as I can and once I'm there perform as well as I can," he said.

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk
CRICKET REPORTER

"I hope to be opening the bowling sometime soon and bat in the middle order. In the future I see myself as an all-rounder."

Like Benkenstein, Wheal comes from Durban and was spotted by Hampshire's first-team coach playing for Natal U19s in December.

After meeting his teammates during the fortnight in Barbados last month, he has settled in well at The Ageas Bowl, where he is staying in a cottage on the ground with fellow rookies Tom Barber , pictured, and Tom Alsop.

"Barbados was incredible and everyone's been very welcoming, I already feel at home here and have been trying my best to impress everyone that I come across," said Wheal.

"I'm just getting used to the conditions at the moment. I struggled a bit in the first two training sessions but I'm getting into the swing of it. It's all going well.

"There are one or two technical things I'm working on with [bowling coach] Craig White to control the swing and use it more effectively.

"It's all about getting the basics right but I'm getting there."

Three years ago, the England and Wales Cricket Board extended the residential qualification for overseas players to seven years.

It would still have been four for Wheal – as it was for Kevin Pietersen – had he moved over before his 18th birthday.

But he will still only be 25 when he qualifies for England. Playing for his adopted country is his ultimate ambition.

"I'm lucky I've been given this opportunity to grow my career at quite a young age," said Wheal, whose chances of playing first-class cricket in South Africa are stymied by the quota system that persuaded Pietersen to leave Natal for Notts in 2001.

"After seven years of being here for 210 days a year I'll be England qualified," explained Wheal, who has a British passport through his mother, who was born in the UK before moving to South Africa with her family as a child. "I'll be back home with family for the rest of the time but have felt at home here, I'm really enjoying it."

Without wanting to big Wheal up too much, he is more of a Dale Steyn than a Morne Morkel.

"I'm not the tallest but have a couple of things to use to my advantage," he said. "I'm trying to get my strength up and the conditioning guys have been working really well having trained with them the other night.

"I'm really excited to be here."

DAILY ECHO AND PINK – BEST FOR HAMPSHIRE CRICKET

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Players required

WINCHESTER City want to hear from keen, young players interested in joining their under-16 set-up for next season.

The club are holding trials next Thursday (April 16, 9am-12 noon) at the Denplan City Ground.

City's under-16s will play in the City of Southampton Youth League and be coached and run by Ryan Andress.

To book a place on the trials, ring Ryan on 07891 245839 or email him at *ryanandress@hotmail.co.uk*.

Family affair

IT'S not often you get two generations of one family playing in the same football team.

But non-League legend Taffy Richardson, below, bucked the trend when he featured alongside his 16-year-old son George for Verwood Town last Saturday.

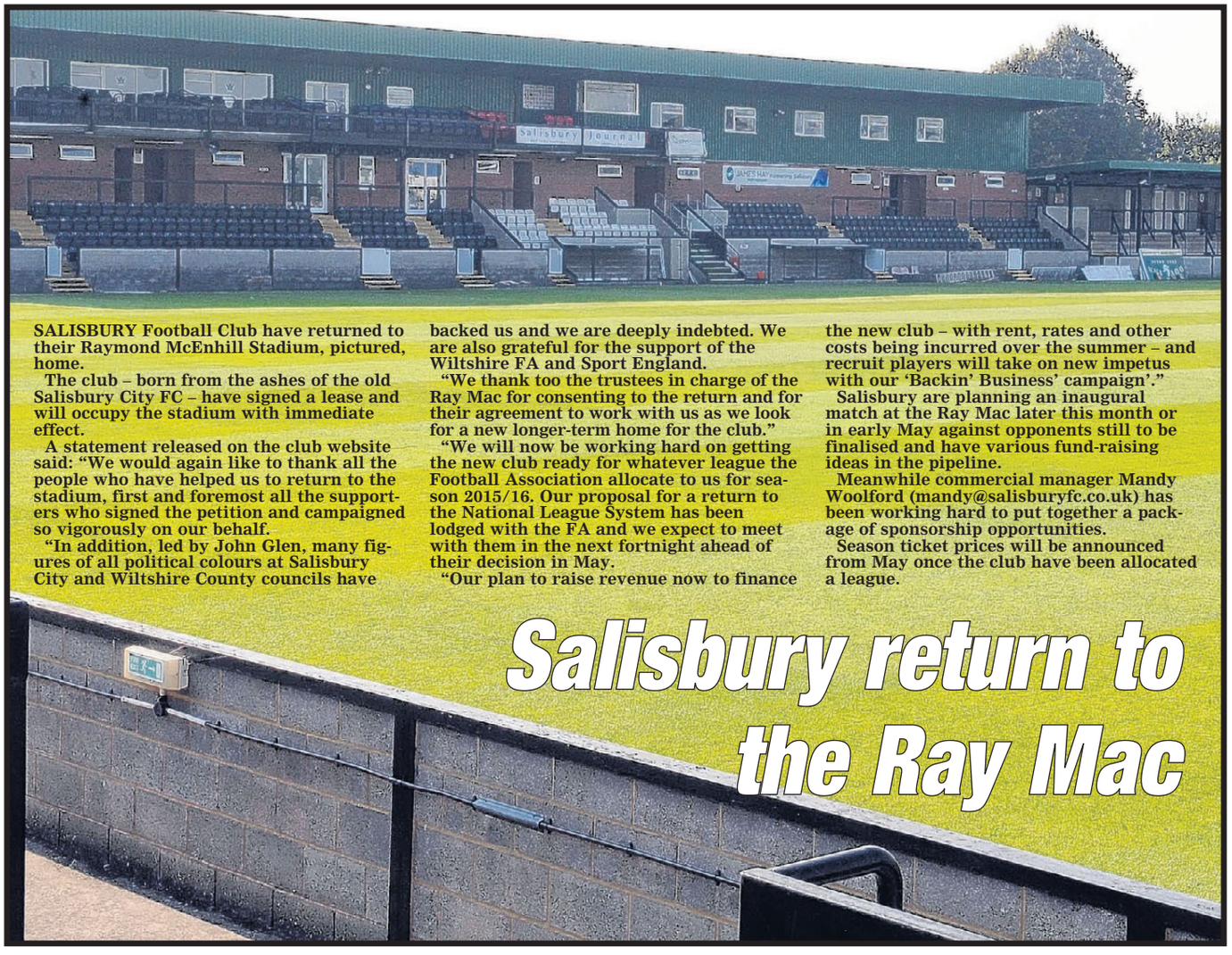
The father and son duo played all 90 minutes at Potterne Park but could not prevent a 3-0 loss to Sydenhams Premier Division leaders Petersfield.

Young George had been earmarked to play in his father's testimonial last summer but was not permitted to feature as he was only 15 at the time.

Secretary search

SYDENHAMS One promotion hopefuls Tadley Calleva are seeking a new secretary for next season.

Anyone interested in filling the post should contact the current secretary Steve Blackburn at *tadleycallevafc@sky.com*.



Salisbury return to the Ray Mac

SALISBURY Football Club have returned to their Raymond McEnhill Stadium, pictured, home.

The club – born from the ashes of the old Salisbury City FC – have signed a lease and will occupy the stadium with immediate effect.

A statement released on the club website said: "We would again like to thank all the people who have helped us to return to the stadium, first and foremost all the supporters who signed the petition and campaigned so vigorously on our behalf.

"In addition, led by John Glen, many figures of all political colours at Salisbury City and Wiltshire County councils have backed us and we are deeply indebted. We are also grateful for the support of the Wiltshire FA and Sport England.

"We thank too the trustees in charge of the Ray Mac for consenting to the return and for their agreement to work with us as we look for a new longer-term home for the club."

"We will now be working hard on getting the new club ready for whatever league the Football Association allocate to us for season 2015/16. Our proposal for a return to the National League System has been lodged with the FA and we expect to meet with them in the next fortnight ahead of their decision in May.

"Our plan to raise revenue now to finance the new club – with rent, rates and other costs being incurred over the summer – and recruit players will take on new impetus with our 'Backin' Business' campaign'."

Salisbury are planning an inaugural match at the Ray Mac later this month or in early May against opponents still to be finalised and have various fund-raising ideas in the pipeline.

Meanwhile commercial manager Mandy Woolford (mandy@salisburyfc.co.uk) has been working hard to put together a package of sponsorship opportunities.

Season ticket prices will be announced from May once the club have been allocated a league.

NO HONEYMOON FOR HOLLICK

UNLIKE some caretaker managers, Steve Hollick has not had the luxury of a 'honeymoon' period at AFC Totton.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

No magic wand has been waved results-wise since his predecessor Steve Riley left the building.

But given that Hollick took the reins on the back of eight defeats and a draw from nine games, it comes as no real surprise to chairman Andy Straker that the goalkeeping coach has not performed instant miracles to guide the club out of Southern One South & West freefall.

Giving Hollick, pictured, his full backing following Monday's 2-1 defeat at Fleet Town, Straker said: "In an ideal world we'd have taken four points out of six over Easter, but you can't overturn where we are in just two weeks with a new manager.

"Steve has done a great job. He is working really hard, training is spot on and the players understand where we're trying to go.

"What we need now is to build the players' confidence. We've got to get behind them and support them for the three games we've got left."

Faced with a Fleet side who needed victory to make certain of South & West survival, Totton came back from behind through Craig Feeney, only for a Stags old boy – Town player/boss Craig Davis – to sink them with a spot kick at the death.

Straker acknowledged: "We weren't at our best today.

"Fleet were playing off the back of a good win (over Wimborne) on Saturday and knew another win today would make sure they were free of relegation.

"We started the second half brightly, but we seemed to take a step back again. We might have got a draw, but it was probably a fair result because Fleet hit the bar twice. Saying that, I don't think we'd have got the penalty that was awarded to them at the end."

Two days earlier, Hollick had picked up his first point as manager with a 1-1 home draw against North Leigh.

But, while satisfied with the result, he had hoped for a more entertaining Easter spectacle.

Totton's afternoon got off to a promising start when Nathan Hurst toe-poked home from two yards after good work from Feeney.

But come half-time that lead had evaporated with Zak Westlake bundling in the equaliser.

Admitting it wasn't the kind of advert he had hoped for in his quest to land the manager's job on a permanent basis, Hollick said: "It was nice to buck the trend of (eight straight) defeats, but there wasn't a massive amount of football played by either side.

"We'd have taken a draw beforehand, but it's just a bit of a shame the performance didn't match the result.

"It was quite a bruising contest, very stop-start with lots of niggly fouls. Because of that we didn't play to our full potential.

"We worked very hard, defended well and put a decent shift in, but we couldn't produce the slick football we'd played the week before (in an unlucky 1-0 defeat at Yate).

"We played so well away to Yate and got a lot of plaudits for it and it would have been nice to have got the same at home. I wanted our home fans to be able to see it as well. We were really well organised, but offensively it wasn't to be."

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

PENALTY KING CRAIG

FLASHBACK: Craig Davis scores from the spot for AFC Totton against Fleet Town during the 2008/09 FA Cup tie.

WHEN Craig Davis stepped up to take a stoppage-time penalty against AFC Totton on Monday, long-serving Stags fans must have feared the worst.

After all, the 33-year-old has previous form when it comes to finding the net from 12 yards.

Back in the 2008/09 season when Davis wore Totton blue, he wreaked headline-making havoc from the spot in the FA Cup – ironically against Fleet Town, the club he now player-manages.

The Stags' 5-2 third qualifying round scoreline that day was nothing out of the ordinary ... until you perused the list of goalscorers.

Nathaniel Sherborne and Mark Osman bagged one apiece, but it was Davis who hogged the limelight with a rare hat-trick of penalties in the ninth, 58th and 65th minutes.

Not only was it the talk of Totton, but it propelled him to national prominence as the FA's player-of-the-round.

On all three occasions he stepped up to the spot on October 11, 2008, Davis unerringly found the bottom right-hand corner at the Stags' old Testwood Park home.

It's a formula that is still serving him well more than six years later, this time in the colours of Fleet Town.

With Monday's Southern One South & West showdown against Totton poised 1-1 going into stoppage time, Town's Ben 'Chalky' White was adjudged to have been fouled by Rob Flooks.

Despite heated Stags protests, which saw Stuart Mott booked, Davis kept his cool and successfully went bottom right again, securing a priceless win that erased all fear of relegation for his north Hampshire charges.

He recalled: "When I scored that hat-trick of penalties for Totton one went a bit higher but all three were more or less bottom corner. The goalkeeper that day was Dave Smalley who was still at Fleet when I first joined and I gave him all sorts of abuse about that!

"I had another penalty against Totton when we played at their place earlier this season and I double-bluffed them that day and went the other way and scored.

"There was quite a bit of pressure with the one on Monday because, if it went in, it meant we were safe from relegation.

"I am not going to lie, it was a big moment and a lot of things went through my head – good and bad times at Totton, them knowing my penalty style, what was at stake etc – but I managed to put it away.

"You couldn't have scripted it better. The whistle literally blew seconds later and we were safe after hearing of Bishops Cleeve's hammering at the hands of Merthyr!"

Fleet had been gifted an early lead at Calthorpe Park when Totton 'keeper Steve Mowthorpe's attempted clearance hit striker Pat Cox who duly pounced on the loose ball to find the empty net from ten yards.

Craig Feeney equalised with a deflected shot in the 53rd minute, but Fleet hit back strongly with both Dan Rousell and ex-Bashley and Romsey man Chris Hall hitting the bar before Davis won it from the spot.

"It was a bit blood and thunder first half. We had fire in our bellies, but we also had fire in our brains when we should have had some ice!" said Davis.

"But in the last half-hour we settled down and we were excellent. We could have had four or five."

Davis: Celebrations were not disrespectful to Totton

CRAIG Davis makes no excuses for the exuberant celebrations that followed his dramatic, late winner against his old club AFC Totton on Easter Monday.

He and his fired-up Fleet Town players couldn't contain their joy as his stoppage-time penalty decider ensured they would live to fight another season in the Southern One South & West.

And Davis – who famously scored a hat-trick of penalties for Totton against Fleet in the 2008/09 FA Cup – reckons that if people knew the financial constraints the north Hampshire outfit are working under, they would understand just why it was such a big deal for Town to maintain their Step 4 status.

Davis, now in his fourth season as Fleet player/manager, said: "The show of emotion of our lads celebrating like that was superb.

"I heard a few of their (Totton's) players and staff saying it was disrespectful. Well that is nonsense. With what our players have gone through and put in, they deserve the celebration.

"For our resources and the issues we have had to contend with after Christmas, this is a massive achievement and the way they dealt with the pressure this weekend is up there with any achievement up and down the country in my opinion."

Fleet are essentially a 'south coast' side with the bulk of their players – including Chandler's Ford-based Davis – travelling up from the Southampton area.

But Davis reckons that because the club itself is out on a limb geographically, they tend to get overlooked with people instead giving their sympathy vote to rock-bottom Bashley.

"We're a bit out of sight, out of mind up here," he said.

"People look on it as 'poor old Bashley' but at least they pay expenses!

"Our lads are having to make their own way to games up and down the M4. Our closest 'local' derby is 45 miles away and our players are travelling everywhere off their own bat. Essentially they're paying to play football.

"It's not the club's fault. They can only pay what they can afford, but it doesn't give us a lot of leeway and that's why I'm really proud of us for staying up.

"With our lack of funds it would be a struggle even in the Wessex League, but we work hard, we train professionally and when we travel up and down the country we get a lot of pats on the back for the way we play our football."

Key trio unlock door to victory

THE 2-1 Totton defeat capped a glorious Easter for Fleet, coming just 48 hours after Wimborne Town had been sent packing 4-2.

And it was no surprise to Davis that those crucial back-to-back victories arrived when he finally had three key players back in the fold.

Dan Rousell had been absent since Christmas due to work commitments, skipper and talisman Ben 'Chalky' White – formerly of Eastleigh youth and Romsey Town – was by his unwell girlfriend's side in hospital and top scorer Simba Mlambo, once of Alton Town, sat out six weeks with a broken thumb.

"We stumbled on without them but now we've managed to get them back and we've won two out of two," said Davis.

"Our lads have showed heart and courage in abundance and I just wish I could bring in a bit more experience to help them out.

"We've managed to get Pat Cox, who's an experienced lad with character, but I'd like two or three more like that to add to the youngsters who are developing."

Davis himself has plenty of expertise to pass on from his time with Bashley, Salisbury City, Totton and Gosport Borough but, in ideal world, he would be managing rather than playing at the age of 33.

Asked if he intended donning his boots again next season, he said: "If I had the players to allow me not play myself, I wouldn't, because I really enjoy the management side.

"But I'm still playing an important part on the pitch and I've got brilliant staff around me at Fleet to help out.

"I've got ambitions to go a lot higher, but at the moment it's a massive success to do what we're doing and managing Fleet is a huge learning curve for me – I even wash the kit myself!

"I spoke to (ex-Bashley boss) Barry Blankley the other day and he said: 'Davo, you'll never have a harder job," and it's true. By rights, we shouldn't be in this league.

"If I had a budget to do something with, I think we'd do very, very well. But much as I get angry sometimes, I love Fleet and I love the people up there and I respect the fact they are working within their means. The chairman is only doing what's right for the club."

CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

LATE AVAILABILITY GETAWAYS

25 May: Grossglockner & The Carinthian Lakes 10 day all inc. Reduced price now £899

20 Apr :	Ostend, Brussels & Ypres 5 day	£315
02 May :	St Ives 8 day **Poldark Country**	£559
04 May :	The Pennine Explorer 5 day	£377
08 May :	Costa Brava 10 day - Roses	£579
09 May :	Fort William, Loch Ness & Skye 8 day	£589
10 May :	Welsh Borders Steam & Cruise 5 day	£395
11 May :	South Wales - Tenby 5 day	£324
11 May :	Warners Alvaston Hall 5 day	£395
11 May :	West Country Treasures 5 day	£283
11 May :	Ludlow & Shropshire Hills 5 day	£369
11 May :	Cornish Gem 5 day	£379
15 May :	Paignton at leisure 8 day	£399
17 May :	Ferry cross the Mersey 6 day	£459
17 May :	Durham, Beamish & Herriot Country 5 day	£375
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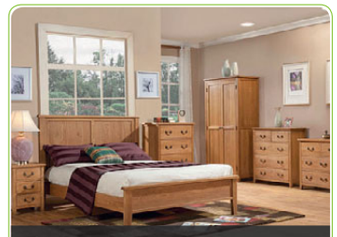
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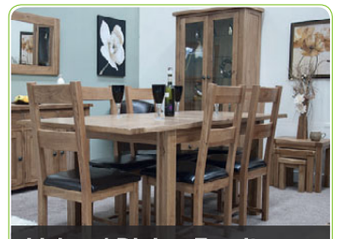
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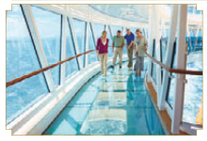

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Sunday, April 12

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Man Utd v Man City, QPR v Chelsea.
CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE
Southampton Junior B Cup, semi-final: Curbridge v Mottisfont, King George v AFC Waterside.
Senior Division: AFC West End v KRL, Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak) v Bush Hill & Newton Heath 1977, Hamble roll Call v Aldermoor United, Yacht Tavern v AFC Bursledon,
Junior Division 1: AFC Riverside v Ice House, Landguard Rovers v Titans, RS Ocean Village v AFC Portswood, Sky Blues v Chamberlayne Athletic
Junior Division 2: Athletico Tin Hut v LH Galaxy, Boyatt Wood Wanderers v Lokomotiv Eastleigh.
Junior Division 3: AFC Bishopstoke v Young Boys 93/4, AFC Velmore v Test Valley Spartans, Trant v Bishops.
Junior Division 4: Durley v AFC Southbrook, Holbury United v Carnival UK, Marchwood Rangers v Otter Sunday.
Junor Division 5: Burridge AFC v Itchen Albion, Dorchester Arms v Portside, Sholing Monks v St Minions, Southampton Seahawks v Bitterne Ducks.
Junior Division 6: AFC Phoenix v Fawley RBL, Sporting Compass v AFC Spitfire, Unity v JSC.
Junior Division 7: Dorchester Manor v Testwood Tornadoes.
WINCHESTER & DISTRICT LEAGUE
Gerald Ballard Shield, semi-final: AFC Gecko v Winchester County, Mucky Duck v Whitenap.
Division 1: AFC Allbrook v FILO.
GOSPORT, FAREHAM & SOLENT LEAGUE
PDFAJunior A Cup Final: CMS v East Lodge.
PDFA Junior B Cup Final: Bridgemary Colts v Titchfield.
PDFA Junior C Cup Final: Elson Titans v Saturn Royals.
Gosport Borough Supporters Cup, semi-final: Heathfield Royals v CJ Glass.
Division 1: Green Dragon v Village Home, Crofton Saints v Bridgemary Eagles.
Division 2: Down End v Queens Head United, AFC Gosport v Lee CC.
Division 3: Hoeford United v TML, Fighting Cocks v Jolly Roger, Dryden v Stubbington, AFC Alverstoke v Gosport Wanderers, AFC Seaway v Castle in the Air.
Division 4: Duke of Connaught v AFC Whiteley, Queens Head Raiders v MM Sports, Foresters United v AFC Gosport Town, Village Home Res v Whiteley XI.
Division 5: DH AFC Onecom v Borough Town, Testcombe Town v White Hart, DH Borough Town v Testcombe Town, AFC Onecom v White Hart, Wispers v AFC Dynamo, Wallington Athletic v Gipsy Queen, RVT v AFC Whiteley Res.
HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE
Division 1: AFC Stoneham v Wimborne, Christchurch v Petersfield, Moneyfields v AFC Totton.
Division 2: PTJ Youth v AFC Portchester, United Services v Bournemouth Sports, Totton & Eling v Fareham Town.
Division 3: Gosport Falcons v Ringwood, Sway v Gosport Youth.
SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH LEAGUE
Under 18s
Salvage Cup, semi-final: Bitterne v Colden Common Rangers, Eastleigh White v Raiders.
Division 1: Winsor United Green v Eastleigh Blue.
Division 2: Hythe & Dibden v Hedge End Rangers White, Romsey Town Yellow v Wellow, Southside AFC v Hamble United Black. Wyvern Saints v Warsash Wasps.
Under 16s
Challenge Cup, quarter-finals: Colden Common v Hytheh & Dibden Hawks, Eastleigh Blue v Fareham Town.
Division 1: Eastleigh White v Romsey Town Cougars, Winchester City v Sholing.
Division 2: AFC Stoneham v Hedge End Rangers White, Crofton Saints Pumas v Brendon Bush Hill.
Division 3: AFC Hiltingbury v Townhill Lingland, Hedge End Rangers Red v Alresford Town, Ice Sports v Folland, Sarisbury Sparks v Sportstars, Wyvern Dragons v S & D.
Division 4: Michelmersh & Timsbury v Romsey Town Panthers, Netley Royals v Marchwood Rangers, QK Southampton Jets v Botley Village, Winsor Utd v Bitterne.
SOUTHAMPTON TYRO LEAGUE
U11s
Division 1 East: Bitterne Black v Soccer4all Tigers, Sholing White v Winchester Black.
Division 2 East: Alresford Town v Bitterne Red, Winchester Blue v Warsash Wasps,
Division 3 East: Chamberlayne Athletic v Hedge End Rangers Red, Eastleigh Red v Hedge End Rangers White.
Division 1 West: Hythe & Dibden Tigers v AFC Hiltinghbury Hurricanes, Marchwood Rangers v Salisbury United. Pace Cougars v Southbrook Rangers.
Division 2 West: Compton v AFC Stoneham, Fawley Falcons v Ice Sports, Pace Pumas v QK Southampton,
Division 3 West: Baddesley Park v Winsor United, Templars v Sports Green, Hythe & Dibden Lions v Oakwood Rangers, Romsey Town Panthers v Stoke Park Rangers, Wellow Wasps v Winsor United Red.
U12s
Division 5: Oakwood Saints v Hedge End Rangers Blue.
U13s
Division 1: Hedge End Rangers Blue v Eastleigh White.
Division 3: Hythe & SDibden Vikings v Romsey Town.
U14s
Division 3: Bitterne Black v AFC Hiltingbury, Hythe & Dibden Phoenix v Baddesley Park, St Francis Rovers v Southside AFC.
Under 15s
Division 1: Sholing v QK Southampton, Winchester Black v Sportstars.
HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Division 2: Kingsclere v Alton United, Mudeford Phoenix v Winchester City.
Under 18s: Portsmouth v Corfe Mullen.

Monday, April 13

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Liverpool v Newcastle.
BARCLAYS U21 PREMIER LEAGUE
Final: Blackburn U21 v Southampton U21 (8pm).
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP FINAL
Petersfield v Havant & Waterlooville (at Westleigh Park).
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: AFC Stoneham v Hamble Club, Otterbourne v Hedge End Rangers.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Sholing v Bemerton HH, Winchester City v Dorchester Town.

Tuesday, April 14

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter-final first leg: Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid, Juventus v Monaco.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Birmingham v Blackburn, Bolton v Charlton, Brighton v Huddersfield, Derby v Blackpool, Ipswich v Cardiff, Leeds v Norwich, Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton, Millwall v Wigan, Reading v Bournemouth, Sheff Wed v Brentford.
League 1: Bradford v Bristol City, Chesterfield v Colchester, Coventry v Oldham, Fleetwood Town v Milton Keynes D, Leyton Orient v Doncaster, Notts County v Barnsley, Peterborough v Crewe, Preston v Gillingham, Rochdale v Swindon, Scunthorpe v Port Vale, Walsall v Crawley Town, Yeovil v Sheff Utd.
League 2: Bury v Shrewsbury, Cheltenham v Cambridge Utd, Dag & Red v Luton, Hartlepool v Accrington Stanley, Mansfield v Tranmere, Oxford Utd v Northampton, Plymouth v AFC Wimbledon, Southend v Newport County, Stevenage v Portsmouth, Wycombe v Exeter, York v Morecambe.
VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: FC Halifax v Eastleigh, Southport v Braintree, Torquay v Lincoln, Welling v Wrexham.
South: Bath City v Ebbsfleet.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Paulton v Frome, Poole Town v Banbury.
DORSET SENIOR CUP FINAL
Weymouth v Dorchester Town.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Horndean.
ISLE OF WIGHT GOLD CUP
Newport IoW v Northwood St Johns, Cowes Sports v East Cowes Vics
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Combination: Fleetlands v Liss Athletic, Hedge End Rangers v Hamble Club.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Division One East: Horndean v Tadley Calleva.
Division One West: Hythe & Dibden v Verwood.

Wednesday, April 15

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter-final first leg: FC Porto v Bayern Munich, PSG v Barcelona.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Fulham v Rotherham, Nottm Forest v Watford.
League 2: Burton Albion v Carlisle.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v AFC Stoneham, Colden Common v Hamble Club, Liphook v Clanfield, Overton v Winchester Castle.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Sholing v AFC Portchester, Wimborne v Moneyfields.
Division One West: Downton v East Cowes Vics.

Thursday, April 16

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Quarter-final first leg: Club Brugge v Dnipro, Dynamo Kiev v Fiorentina, Sevilla v Zenit St Petersburg, Wolfsburg v Napoli.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Tototn v Dorchester Town, Winchester City v Petersfield.

Friday, April 17

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Norwich v Middlesbrough.
League 1: Port Vale v Preston.

Saturday, April 18

FA CUP
Semi-final: Aston Villa v Liverpool, Reading v Arsenal.
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea v Man Utd, Crystal Palace v West Brom, Everton v Burnley, Leicester v Swansea, Stoke v Southampton.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Blackburn v Nottm Forest, Blackpool v Fulham, Bournemouth v Sheff Wed, Brentford v Bolton, Cardiff v Millwall, Charlton v Leeds, Huddersfield v Derby, Watford v Birmingham, Wigan v Brighton, Wolverhampton v Ipswich.
League 1: Barnsley v Peterborough, Bristol City v Coventry, Colchester v Scunthorpe, Crawley Town v Notts County, Crewe v Walsall, Doncaster v Fleetwood Town, Gillingham v Rochdale, Milton Keynes Dons v Leyton Orient, Oldham v Chesterfield, Sheff Utd v Bradford, Swindon v Yeovil.
League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Wycombe, Accrington Stanley v Stevenage, Cambridge Utd v Mansfield, Carlisle v Plymouth, Exeter v Southend, Luton v Hartlepool, Morecambe v Burton Albion, Newport County v Dag & Red, Portsmouth v Bury, Shrewsbury v York, Tranmere v Oxford Utd.
Barclays U18 Premier League
Group Three: Southampton U18 v Stoke U18 (3pm).
VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: Aldershot v Chester, Alfreton v Welling, Altricham v AFC Telford, Dover v Bristol Rovers, FC Halifax v Torquay, Gateshead v Forest Green Rovers, Kidderminster v Barnet, Lincoln v Eastleigh, Macclesfield v Dartford, Nuneaton v Woking, Southport v Grimsby.
South: Basingstoke v Havant & Waterlooville, Bath City v Sutton, Bishops Stortford v Gosport Borough, Bromley v Weston-super-Mare, Concord v Hayes & Yeading, Eastbourne Borough v Farnborough, Maidenhead v Wealdstone, St Albans v Ebbsfleet, Whitehawk v Hemel Hempstead.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Banbury v Histon, Cambridge City v Bideford, Chesham v Poole, Cirencester v Hungerford, Hitchin v Burnham, Paulton v Dorchester, Redditch v Biggleswade, Slough v Frome, St Neots v Chippenham, Truro v Arlesey, Weymouth v Corby.
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Bishops Cleeve, Bashley v Fleet, Cinderford v Bridgwater, Clevedon v Stratford, Evesham v Tiverton, Mangotsfield v Shortwood, Merthyr v Larkhall, North Leigh v Sholing, Swindon Supermarine v Didcot, Taunton v Yate, Wantage v Wimborne.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bemerton HH v Blackfield & Langley, Bournemouth Poppies v Newport IoW, Christchurch v Petersfield, Fareham v Hamworthy Utd, Folland Sports v Fawley AFC, Horndean v Winchester City, Moneyfields v Andover Town, Totton & Eling v Verwood, Whitchurch v AFC Portchester.
Division One: Amesbury v New Milton, Andover New Street v US Portsmouth, Cowes Sports v Ringwood, Downton v Romsey, Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calleva.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: Bush Hill v Paulsgrove, Clanfield v Hamble Club, Hedge End Rangers v Headley, Liss v Otterbourne, Overton v Fleetlands, Winchester Castle v Stockbridge.
Division One: Lyndhurst v Netley Central Sports, Upham v Cadnam.
Combination: Fleetlands v Winchester Castle, Overton v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Liss.
FA INTER LEAGUE CUP
Wiltshire Football League v Hampshire Premier League.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bemerton HH, Petersfield v Wimborne.
Division One East: Newport IoW v Tadley Calleva (1.30)
Division One West: East Cowes Vics v Bashley, Lymington Town v Verwood.

Youth Football

PACE COUGARS UNDER-11S CELEBRATING THE TITLE: Back row: (left to right) Daniel Brito, Max Dent, Harry Roberts, Jack Warrener, Simon Lightfoot (manager), Jacob Gilpin, Dan Orman (coach), Joseph Lovell, Max Mouland. Front row: Thomas Openshaw, Harvey Hughes, Morgan Vincent, Logan Brown, Billy Lightfoot (captain), Josh Holbrook. Not pictured: Ben Taylor.

COUGARS SET PACE

SEVERAL have tried, but no one has managed to 'out-Pace' the Cougars in the Tyro under-11 Division One West this season.

Heading into tomorrow's final game against Southbrook Rangers at the Oasis Academy in Green Lane (Sunday, 2pm), Pace Cougars are already celebrating the title.

Last Sunday's 4-2 win over namesakes Romsey Cougars left them with a perfect record of 17 wins from 17 games, keeping them six points clear of closest rivals Oakwood Lions.

Under the expert guidance of manager Simon Lightfoot and coach Dan Orman, sharpshooting Pace boast a phenomenal goal difference of +136 with 141 scored and just five conceded.

For Lightfoot and Orman it is their third league title success in a row.

They started the team with six and seven-year-olds at Pace, playing competitive games in the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League and winning the under-9 White League.

Success in the under-10 White League followed, making them the first side to win two consecutive league titles.

The boys also won the Jim Pearson Challenge Cup that season to complete a league and cup double – something that can't be repeated due to FA rules on the age of competitive football.

On joining the Southampton & District Tyro League, the management team had to increase and strengthen the squad to cope with the step up from seven-a-side to nine-a-side football.

It also meant the boys getting to grips with the offside law, having official referees and playing for an hour.

Five new players were recruited and Lightfoot and Orman spent many a cold, wet night training the team – with support of the parents – to get them where they are now.

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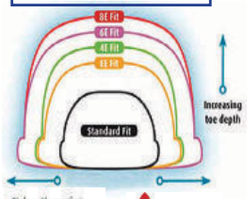

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NON-LEAGUE EXTRA

Relief for keeper

WIMBORNE Town goalkeeper Jason Harvell revealed his relief at being given the medical all-clear to play over Easter.

The 28-year-old stopper limped off towards the end of the Magpies' home defeat to Stratford Town on March 28 amid concerns he had damaged medial knee ligaments.

He was replaced by Ben Field for the visit of Cinderford Town the following midweek and feared a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

But the Cuthbury favourite, who endured a painstaking recovery from knee surgery in 2012, was pleasantly surprised by the positive prognosis that enabled him to make a swift return for the Easter programme against Fleet and Taunton Town.

Reliving the moment he thought his season might have ended prematurely, Harvell said: "From the initial restriction in movement and the pain I felt, I thought I might have done some medial ligament damage but, fortunately, that was not the case.

"At the time, I was quite upset to be honest. I have been fortunate enough to play a big part this season and, having had knee operation in the past, I know how long it can take to come back from this type of injury.

"I am getting on a bit now and just want to play as many games as possible!"

The Magpies produced a mixed bag of Southern One South & West results over Easter.

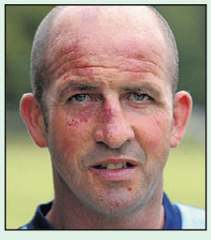
Last Saturday they lost 4-2 away to Craig Davis's Fleet Town who were fighting for their lives at the lower end of the table.

That was followed by an Easter Monday visit from promotion-chasing Taunton which ended in a 1-1 Cuthbury draw.

Luke Stone set up Sam Griffin to bury the Mapgies' opener and Graham Mercieca levelled for the Peacocks with a 30-yard free-kick.

Harvell looked to have Mercieca's strike covered, but it took a heavy defelection off the Wimborne wall and wrong-footed the goalkeeper before bobbling inside the opposite post.

Adie deserves a go



NEW chairperson Fiona Legg says Adie Arnold deserves the chance to show what he can do as manager of Christchurch next season.

Former Verwood boss Arnold has endured a tough time at the Priory helm this term and, going into the last three games of the Sydenhams Premier season, there was no guarantee that the 19th-placed Dorset club would avoid being sucked into the bottom two.

But, despite recent speculation over Arnold's future, Legg has made it abundantly clear that she sees him as the right man for the job.

"Adie has my full support and the full support of many people at the club," she said.

"He deserves a good chance with the right backing and that is what he will get.

"Everyone has opinions, that is human nature, but we have to get everyone together, work as a team and support the players and management.

"That is the aim at the moment.

"Who knows what next week is going to bring?

"We don't know if Adie is going to turn round and say 'I'm done', but personally I would like to work with him next season.

"We are a committee-run club and I can only speak for myself, but I will work closely with Adie to make sure everything is in place. The players will also be fully supported.

"There is a lot we can improve, but the focus has to be on the football, the players and the management at this stage."

Following two priceless home victories over Andover Town and Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Christchurch's cushion over the drop zone was trimmed to three points on Easter Monday.

Although Priory kept their unbeaten run going with a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth Poppies, Totton & Eling narrowed the gap by beating Fawley 3-2.

It was an ex-Hurn Bridge youngster Connor Doe who plunged Christchurch into arrears at Victoria Park. But Priory hit back courtesy of a Mark Smith penalty in first-half stoppage time.

Horse Racing

WINNER: Many Clouds, ridden by Leighton Aspell clears the final fence to win The Crabbie's Grand National Steeple Chase.

Many Clouds won the Crabbie's Grand National at Aintree for trainer Oliver Sherwood and last year's winning jockey Leighton Aspell.

Successful aboard Pineau De Re 12 months ago, Aspell was never too far off the pace and Many Clouds, winner of the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury earlier in the season and sixth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, jumped with aplomb throughout.

For a long way it appeared Shutthefrontdoor could provide Tony McCoy with a fairytale second National triumph before his retirement, but he eventually weakened into fifth place.

Many Clouds tired from the elbow, but had enough in the tank to hold off Saint Are, with Monbeg Dude third and Alvarado fourth.

Aspell said: "It was wonderful and we will certainly celebrate tonight. I asked some big questions, but he dug deep.

"We really refreshed and recharged his battery, and I tried to conserve energy. He is all heart - all season he has had hard races.

"Win lose or draw, that's the best ride I have had in the National. I just hoped his battery life lasted out and it did. ''

The win was a third in the National for owner Trevor Hemmings after Hedgehunter (2005) and Ballabriggs (2011).

Sherwood said: "I can't believe it, it was some spin. All I wanted was the horse to come back in one piece.

"He was foot-perfect and didn't make a mistake. I thought it was a year too soon, but he was fit and healthy and it was Trevor's decision - he must get all the credit.

"The horse has been unbelievable all season, he has blossomed all year - he just got out of bed the wrong way in the Gold Cup.

"I didn't show him any National fences on purpose, I thought he had just gone over the top before the Gold Cup.''

Hemmings said: "Seriously, it was incredible. You come to the National and you dream that you win it.

"When a third comes along, that is something special. It is a wonderful, wonderful feeling.

"For years and years this race has captured my heart. What a wonderful feeling, you can't express it.

"Thank you Oliver Sherwood, thank you Leighton and all the staff, and, of course, Aintree.''

Sherwood added: "I didn't see my horse come back in, so I was a bit worried, but I gather he was just a bit wobbly and he's OK.

"Jumping the last I couldn't watch. I watched the race on my own and the poor people beside me - I lost it completely!

"It was some spin from Leighton - to win it two years on the bounce is just unreal.

"I still don't know what happened in the Gold Cup. He definitely didn't run his race, nothing against the winner (Coneygree).

"I've done nothing with this horse since Cheltenham. He hasn't seen a National fence. I didn't think it was the right thing to do. He's done two quiet bits of work and that's all I've done with him.

"It gave me a bit more confidence this week when (Silviniaco) Conti ran so well and Holywell didn't run badly, so the Gold Cup form was working out.

"Luckily this year there's an extra week from Cheltenham to Aintree, which has made a huge difference.

"I'm going to really enjoy this one – I'm in cloud cuckoo land!"

CELEBRATION: Jockey Leighton Aspell after winning his second Grand National in a row

Horse Racing

MICK CHANNON

HILL TO PEAK AT RASEN

SAINTS legend Mick Channon eases Warden Hill back into the fray with what should be a confidence-booster in the Brown & Co Novices' Chase at Market Rasen.

The three-mile-one-furlong contest represents a steep drop in class for the seven-year-old after coming out best of the rest behind none other than Gold Cup hero Coneygree in Grade One company at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Drying ground would be ideal and it will be interesting to see where he goes from here.

Master Of The Hall is back on a competitive mark over fences and can hopefully make his presence felt in the Racing UK Profits Returned To Racing Handicap Chase.

A very smart horse in his younger days with Nicky Henderson, he has done really well for Micky Hammond and has a definite affinity with this Lincolnshire venue, having won three times at Market Rasen and having been placed on his other three visits.

Adding further hope is the fact Hammond's North Yorkshire string is in good heart.

Kayfton Pete is another who was won and run good races here and is the pick to do so again in the Join The Racing UK Club Handicap Chase.

The nine-year-old is a few pounds lower over fences than he is over the smaller obstacles when second at Southwell late last month, giving lumps of weight to winner Moonlight Maggie.

There is an argument he might have needed that a bit, too, on his first run since November.

Red Devil Lads has to be followed in the totepool Supports The Sport You Love Handicap Chase at Ffos Las.

The six-year-old is making up into a progressive young handicap chaser when he gets his favoured conditions and, to that end, hopefully it will not dry up too much in Wales.

Winner of three of his last four starts, the Rebecca Curtis-trained gelding was a very easy scorer at this track in March, defying a 12lb rise in some style.

He has another hike in the ratings to overcome but it will take a brave man to bet that he will not do so.

A terrific card at Leopardstown sees a number of Classic trials, with John F Kennedy the star attraction in the three-runner Ballysax Stakes.

The ten-furlong event is a serious pointer for Epsom and beyond and there is little doubt Aidan O'Brien's Galileo colt looked a serious prospect when winning two of his three starts as a juvenile.

SUNDAY'S SELECTIONS

FFOS LAS: 2.00 Aldborough, 2.30 Zama Zama, 3.05 Bunclody, 3.40 Red Devil Lads, 4.10 Rally, 4.45 West Of The Edge, 5.15 Premier Bond.
LEOPARDSTOWN: 2.10 Zannda, 2.40 Mohaayed, 3.15 Calypso Beat, 3.50 John F Kennedy, 4.20 Tooreen Legend, 4.55 Aussie Valentine, 5.25 Abushamah.
MARKET RASEN: 2.15 Bobble Emerald, 2.45 Hassle, 3.20 Flying Light, 3.55 WARDEN HILL (NAP), 4.25 Master Of The Hall, 5.00 Kayfton Pete, 5.30 Card Game.
TRAMORE: 2.20 Flaviana, 2.55 Coolbane West, 3.30 Eshtiaal, 4.00 Draycott Place, 4.35 Hop In, 5.05 Headford Flyer, 5.35 Akito.
DOUBLE: Warden Hill and Red Devil Lads.

MARKET RASEN — Sunday's runners

Going: Good

2.15 WATCH RACINGUK ON SKY CHANNEL 432 MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,395.

1 5-2233 **ALTO DES MOTTES (FR) (46) (BF)** H Hogarth 5 11 0 .....**T Kelly (3)**
2 F-22 **BOBBLE EMERALD (IRE) (309) (BF)** M Keighley 7 11 0 ...**A Tinkler**
3 2PPP5 **COPPERFACEJACK (IRE) (43)** P Webber 5 11 0 .....**C Poste**
4 04 **DOCTOR'S ORDERS (IRE) (22)** Mrs L Wadham 5 11 0 .....**L Aspell**
5 /F-301 **HILLVIEW LAD (IRE) (176)** N Kent 7 11 0 .....**D Costello**
6 5-36SP **HOWWRONGCANYOUBE (17)** A King 6 11 0 .....**W Hutchinson**
7 0-620 **MURRAY MOUNT (IRE) (43)** C Mann 5 11 0 .....**N Fehily**
8 6634 **OH LAND ABLOOM (IRE) (13)** N King 5 11 0 .....**T Whelan**
9 463- **PICODEAN (364)** Robert Stephens 7 11 0 .....**T J O'Brien**
10 0/0-06 **VODKA MOON (31)** Mrs S Watt 6 11 0 .....**J Palmowski (7)**
11 61 **CUL DEALGA (IRE) (141)** C Bealby 6 10 7 .....**T Messenger**
12 06 **LITTLE WREN (39)** C Grant 6 10 7 .....**Diarmuid O'Regan (5)**
13 40-6P **TAPAIDH FRANKIE (IRE) (44)** S G West 6 10 7 .....**J Colliver (3)**

BETTING: 13-8 Alto Des Mottes, 9-2 Bobble Emerald, 5-1 Cul Dealga, 10-1 Hillview Lad, Murray Mount, 12-1 Howwrongcanyoube, Oh Land Abloom, 14-1 Picodean, 25-1 others.

2.45 ABN NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,249.

1 24310 **CAMACHOICE (IRE) (163) (BF)** J Snowden 5 11 5 .....**B J Powell**
2 3-0004 **COOZAN GEORGE (35)** J Jefferson 6 10 13 .....**B Hughes**
3 21-424 **COUNTERSIGN (175) (CD)** C Pogson 6 10 13 .....**A Pogson**
4 43 **HASSLE (IRE) (22) (BF)** N Henderson 6 10 13 .....**Peter Carberry**
5 61 **QUEBEC (26) (D)** Robert Stephens 4 10 13 .....**J Sherwood (5)**
6 42 **LARMOR (FR) (47)** M Hammond 4 10 7 .....**J Colliver (3)**
7 0 **LOCHALSH (IRE) (15)** D Skelton 4 10 7 .....**H Skelton**

BETTING: 11-8 Hassle, 5-2 Quebec, 6-1 Camachoice, 8-1 Larmor, Countersign, 25-1 Coozan George, Lochalsh.

3.20 JH WALTER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,249.

1 0/31- **WATERFORD STAR (IRE) (651) (D)** Mrs F Kehoe 7 11 12 .**S P Jones**
2 5P4431 **FLYING LIGHT (IRE) (26)** G McPherson 9 11 12 .....**W Hutchinson**
3 0-044P **OFICIAL BEN (IRE) (44)** Jonjo O'Neill 6 11 11 .....**R McLernon**
4 -103P6 **PAY THE KING (IRE) (16)** M Hammond 8 11 10 .....**J Colliver (3)**
5 F1366- **BENENDEN (IRE) (378)** M Scudamore 7 11 10 .....**L Treadwell**
6 -410F0 **MAGIC MONEY (17) (D)** K Bailey 7 11 9 .....**T Bellamy (3)**
7 -5R240 **SPRING STEEL (IRE) (27)** B Pauling 6 11 3 .....**N De Boinville**
8 4-3343 **THE WINKING PRAWN (IRE) (65)** G McPherson 8 11 2 ..**G Tumelty**
9 5-4364 **SUPERIOR FIRE (IRE) (32)** C Longsdon 5 11 0 .....**N Fehily**
10 034520 **LIBECCIO (FR) (22)** C Mann 4 11 0 .....**J M Davies**
11 43-443 **KING OF STRINGS (IRE) (27) (C)** M Walford 6 10 13 .....**D Costello**
12 U03-2P **NEXT EXIT (IRE) (264)** J Cornwall 10 10 12 .....**J Cornwall (5)**
13 00-4P5 **PERIQUEST (56)** A Hales 6 10 9 .....**P Brennan**
14 4P0423 **LOOKS LIKE MAGIC (6)** N King 6 10 6 .....**T Whelan**

BETTING: 4-1 Flying Light, 6-1 Waterford Star, 8-1 King Of Strings, Superior Fire, 10-1 Looks Like Magic, The Winking Prawn, Libeccio, Magic Money, Oficial Ben, 14-1 others.

3.55 BROWN & CO NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS 3). £12,000 added 5YO PLUS 3m 1f Penalty Value £7,798.

1 P34425 **FLICHITY (IRE) (12) (C)** J Cornwall 10 11 4 .....**J Cornwall (5)**
2 164P60 **MIDNIGHT OSCAR (IRE) (101) (D)** K Bailey 8 11 4 ....**T Bellamy (3)**
3 25P10P **SIR MANGAN (IRE) (36)** D McCain 7 11 4 .....**N Fehily**
4 32-412 **WARDEN HILL (IRE) (107) (D)** M Channon 7 11 4 .....**B Hughes**

BETTING: 8-13 Warden Hill, 3-1 Midnight Oscar, 4-1 Sir Mangan, 50-1 Flichity.

4.25 RACING UK PROFITS RETURNED TO RACING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £6,100 added 5YO PLUS 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £3,964.

1 12F100 **MASTER OF THE HALL (IRE) (107) (C)(D)** M Hammond 11 11 12 ..**J Colliver (3)**
2 22-254 **MR SYNTAX (IRE) (40)** C Grant 11 11 11 ....**Diarmuid O'Regan (5)**
3 F-1342 **FAVOURED NATION (IRE) (29)** Jonjo O'Neill 8 11 7 ....**R McLernon**
4 460641 **CAPE YORK (26) (C)(D)** J Jefferson 7 11 6 .....**B Hughes**
5 3-P616 **SMART CATCH (IRE) (37) (C)(BF)** A Carroll 9 10 13 .....**L Edwards**
6 P22P51 **MISTER WISEMAN (21) (CD)** N Hawke 13 10 10 .....**James Best**

BETTING: 5-2 Mister Wiseman, 11-4 Cape York, 7-2 Favoured Nation, 13-2 Mr Syntax, 7-1 Smart Catch, 10-1 Master Of The Hall.

5.00 JOIN THE RACING UK CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £6,000 added 5YO PLUS 2m 2f Penalty Value £3,899.

1 -5PP30 **SHOOTERS WOOD (IRE) (16)** D Pearson 11 11 12 ..**J Cornwall (5)**
2 044113 **LIGHT THE CITY (IRE) (F18)** Mrs R Carr 8 11 11 .....**J Greenall**
3 331252 **KAYFTON PETE (19) (C)(BF)** C Pogson 9 11 3 .....**A Pogson**
4 P5U514 **AULDTHUNDER (IRE) (31) (BF)** M Hammond 8 10 13 ..**J Colliver (3)**
5 665352 **GEORGE NYMPTON (IRE) (13)** Miss Z Davison 9 10 9 **W Hutchinson**

BETTING: 13-8 Kayfton Pete, 5-2 Light The City, 11-4 Auldthunder, 13-2 George Nympton, 25-1 Shooters Wood.

5.30 NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 8TH MAY MARES' MAIDEN OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS 6). £2,400 added 4 to 6YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,560.

1 **ALIZEE JAVILEX (FR)** Mrs L Wadham 5 10 12 .....**L Aspell**
2 5 **ANOTHER COBBLER (FR) (134)** H Daly 5 10 12 .....**J Greenall**
3 433 **CARD GAME (IRE) (42)** J Jefferson 6 10 12 .....**B Hughes**
4 30 **LOLLI (IRE) (165)** N Henderson 5 10 12 .....**N De Boinville**
5 **PRETTY ROSE (IRE)** B Case 5 10 12 .....**D Jacob**
6 **ROMANEE VIVANT** N King 5 10 12 .....**T Whelan**
7 22 **SIMPLY ROUGE (21) (BF)** P Niven 5 10 12 .....**N Fehily**
8 5 **TARA'S RAINBOW (11)** K Bailey 5 10 12 .....**E Cookson (5)**
9 62 **THE GOLDEN HOUR (IRE) (49)** Miss Z Davison 5 10 12 ....**M Grant**
10 P-3213 **TWENTY EIGHT GUNS (24)** M Scudamore 5 10 12 .....**L Treadwell**
11 12 **YES I DID (IRE) (27)** D Skelton 5 10 12 .....**H Skelton**
12 **LAPALALA (IRE)** P Hobbs 4 10 6 .....**T J O'Brien**
13 **MAYBELL** A Hales 4 10 6 .....**J Banks (3)**
14 0 **MIGHTY TIGRESS (22)** A King 4 10 6 .....**W Hutchinson**
15 503 **THEATRE ACT (33)** C Grant 4 10 6 .....**Diarmuid O'Regan (5)**

BETTING: 7-2 Yes I Did, 4-1 Simply Rouge, 13-2 Lapalala, 8-1 Lolli, Card Game, 10-1 Twenty Eight Guns, 14-1 Theatre Act, Alizee Javilex, 16-1 others.

FFOS LAS — Sunday's runners

Going: Soft-Good to Soft in places

2.00 TOTEPLACEPOT MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,249.

101 2 **ALDBOROUGH (IRE) (30)** Robert Stephens 5 11 0 .....**R Flint**
102 12U **APRIL DUSK (IRE) (44)** W Greatrex 6 11 0 .....**G Sheehan**
103 **BROADWAY BLUESHIRT (SPA) (F1416)** N Twiston-Davies 7 11 0 .**S Twiston-Davies**
104 4-4 **CANICALLYOUBACK (188) (BF)** E Williams 7 11 0 .....**C Ring (5)**
105 4-65 **CLANCY'S CROSS (IRE) (122)** Miss R Curtis 6 11 0 ....**P Townend**
106 1-P3PP **DRIFTASHORE (IRE) (42)** A Turnell 8 11 0 .....**Miss B Hampson (7)**
107 4-02 **SUMMER SOUNDS (IRE) (22)** T Symonds 6 11 0 .....**D O'Regan**
108 3/06-P **TUFFSTUFF (44)** S Barr 7 11 0 .....**W Featherstone (7)**
109 00-P **FANNY FANTASTIC (32)** Miss I Pickard 6 10 7 .....**M Heard (7)**
110 30 **SPACE WALKER (IRE) (34)** B Pauling 4 10 7 .....**D Bass**

BETTING: 7-4 Aldborough, 4-1 April Dusk, 5-1 Summer Sounds, 8-1 Clancy's Cross, 10-1 Canicallyouback, 12-1 Space Walker, Broadway Blueshirt, 20-1 Tuffstuff, 25-1 others.

2.30 TOTEPOOL 'IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSE' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £3,800 added 5YO PLUS 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,469.

201 P5-523 **RAVENS BROOK (IRE) (11) (D)(BF)** R Lee 9 11 12 .....**R Johnson**
202 222U32 **ZAMA ZAMA (13) (D)** E Williams 8 11 6 .....**Mr C Orr (7)**
203 P-PP46 **MATROW'S LADY (IRE) (26) (C)** N Mulholland 8 11 6 ....**M Quinlan**
204 P1243P **PETIT ECUYER (FR) (10) (C)** A Turnell 9 11 2 .....**D Crosse**
205 P-0P00 **AMERICAN WORLD (FR) (16) (D)** Lady S Brooke 11 11 2 **Mr J Nixon (7)**
206 0-P541 **LORD FOX (IRE) (30) (D)** S A Harris 8 11 1 .....**S Twiston-Davies**
207 4504P3 **ACCORDINGTOPALM (IRE) (17) (C)** D Rees 9 11 0 .....**P Moloney**
208 4B32U1 **LAMB'S CROSS (8) (C)(D)** M Gillard 9 10 13 .....**M Heard (7)**
209 P34243 **BALL HOPPER (IRE) (47) (D)** Mrs R Ford 11 10 4 .....**A Wedge**
210 3432U3 **BOB WILL (IRE) (12) (D)** J Flint 10 10 0 .....**Will Kennedy**

BETTING: 9-4 Lord Fox, 7-2 Lamb's Cross, 9-2 Zama Zama, 13-2 Ravens Brook, 10-1 Ball Hopper, 14-1 Accordingtopalm, Petit Ecuyer, 16-1 Bob Will, 20-1 others.

3.05 BET ON ALL UK RACING WITH TOTEPOOL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 4YO PLUS 3m Penalty Value £2,274.

301 1PUP6P **LOOKSLIKERAINTED (IRE) (43) (C)(D)** Miss R Curtis 8 11 5 **A Johns (3)**
302 10-PP3 **BUNCLODY (15)** F Brennan 10 11 1 .....**F Mitchell (3)**
303 -6610P **CHAMPAGNE RIAN (IRE) (17) (D)** Miss R Curtis 7 11 1 .**C Brassil (8)**
304 1F6PP0 **MAKETHE MOSTOFNOW (IRE) (61) (CD)** E Williams 10 11 1 .**C Ring (3)**
305 P1P5P5 **PREMIER PORTRAIT (IRE) (17) (D)** K Bailey 8 11 1 ....**C Shoemark**
306 25F-P4 **TANERKO EMERY (FR) (59)** P Bowen 9 11 1 .....**Sean Bowen**

BETTING: 7-4 Tanerko Emery, 9-4 Bunclody, 13-2 Champagne Rian, 15-2 Premier Portrait, 8-1 Looksikerainted, 10-1 Makethe Mostofnow.

3.40 TOTEPOOL SUPPORTS THE SPORT YOU LOVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £11,000 added 5YO PLUS 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £7,148.

401 5F-5P6 **MOUNTAINOUS (IRE) (57) (C)** R Lee 10 11 12 .....**P Moloney**
402 531P11 **RED DEVIL LADS (IRE) (17) (C)** Miss R Curtis 6 11 9 ....**P Townend**
403 -1U432 **TOP WOOD (FR) (29)** D Pipe 8 11 9 .....**T Scudamore**
404 -P31P1 **FARBREAGA (IRE) (18)** J Poulton 9 11 7 .....**J McGrath (3)**
405 241415 **ACHIMOTA (IRE) (18)** G McPherson 9 11 3 .....**G Sheehan**
406 4313-P **RYDALIS (FR) (159)** Miss V Williams 10 11 0 .....**A Coleman**
407 -0P312 **BUACHAILL ALAINN (IRE) (8)** P Bowen 8 10 12 ..**Sean Bowen (3)**
408 /04PP2 **BALLYBOUGH PAT (IRE) (13) (C)** David Dennis 8 10 11 .**S Twiston-Davies**
409 5S2U33 **STILL BELIEVING (IRE) (36) (C)** E Williams 7 10 3 .....**A Wedge**

BETTING: 7-2 Red Devil Lads, 4-1 Top Wood, 9-2 Farbreaga, 6-1 Buachaill Alainn, 8-1 Ballybough Pat, 10-1 Achimota, Mountainous, 12-1 Still Believing, 14-1 Rydalis.

4.10 TOTEPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3). £8,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 6f Penalty Value £5,523.

501 1233P1 **MOLLY'S A DIVA (51) (C)** K Bailey 8 11 12 .....**A Coleman**
502 4-221P **OSCAR SUNSET (IRE) (71) (D)(BF)** E Williams 8 11 11 ..**P Moloney**
503 F-1242 **IRISH BUCCANEER (IRE) (43)** P Hobbs 8 11 9 .....**R Johnson**
504 0403P- **NATIVE GALLERY (IRE) (442)** B De Haan 10 11 9 .....**Jack Doyle**
505 -223F4 **HANSUPFORDETROIT (IRE) (17) (D)** B J Llewellyn 10 11 7 ....**Rob Williams (3)**
506 1-6135 **LAMPS (17)** M Blake 8 11 6 .....**N Scholfield**
507 0-5361 **RALLY (23)** N Twiston-Davies 6 11 1 .....**S Twiston-Davies**
508 /22P6F **BUCK MAGIC (IRE) (29) (D)(BF)** N Mulholland 9 11 1 ....**M Quinlan**
509 66-351 **GOLDEN MILAN (IRE) (17) (C)** Miss R Curtis 7 11 0 ....**P Townend**
510 36P001 **VIF ARGENT (FR) (44) (CD)** D Pipe 6 10 12 .....**K Edgar (5)**
511 -60023 **HOLLOW TREE (29) (C)** I Williams 7 10 8 .....**Will Kennedy**
512 562144 **ASSIREM (FR) (31) (BF)** B Pauling 5 10 5 .....**D Bass**
513 22325P **LEWIS (13)** T Symonds 6 10 4 .....**F de Giles**
514 5F1540 **FISHING BRIDGE (IRE) (17) (CD)** D Rees 10 10 0 .....**A Wedge**

BETTING: 4-1 Rally, 11-2 Vif Argent, 6-1 Golden Milan, 7-1 Molly's A Diva, 8-1 Irish Buccaneer, 10-1 Hollow Tree, 12-1 Oscar Sunset, Buck Magic, 14-1 others.

4.45 TOTEEXACTA HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £5,800 added 5YO PLUS 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,769.

601 -01134 **WEST OF THE EDGE (IRE) (49)** A Turnell 7 11 12 .....**D Crosse**
602 2-25UP **VICTORY GUNNER (IRE) (55) (CD)** R Lee 17 11 9 ....**M G Nolan (3)**
603 P51652 **WAYWARD FROLIC (36)** Mrs S Leech 9 11 8 .....**K Moore (3)**
604 -06313 **EXPANDING UNIVERSE (IRE) (42) (C)(BF)** A Carroll 8 11 5 .**N Slatter (7)**
605 P23523 **THE LAST BRIDGE (25) (C)** Mrs S Johnson 8 11 0 .....**R Johnson**
606 214433 **MAC LE COUTEAU (21) (C)** E Williams 7 10 13 .....**A Wedge**
607 P40P31 **CHARMING LAD (IRE) (6) (D)** A Day 10 10 8(7ex) ...**Mr D Burton (7)**
608 UP35S3 **CHASERS CHANCE (IRE) (8)** P Henderson 12 10 4 .....**T Cannon**
609 -226P3 **SOMERBY (IRE) (55)** Mrs R Ford 12 10 3 .....**M Linehan (3)**

BETTING: 3-1 Charming Lad, 4-1 Expanding Universe, 9-2 Wayward Frolic, 7-1 Mac Le Couteau, 8-1 The Last Bridge, 10-1 Chasers Chance, Somerby, 14-1 West Of The Edge, Victory Gunner.

5.15 TOTETRIFECTA INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS 6). £2,400 added 4 to 5YO 2m Penalty Value £1,643.

01 **AURILLAC (FR)** Miss R Curtis 5 11 4 .....**P Townend**
02 0 **COLMERS HILL (63)** J Scott 5 11 4 .....**N Scholfield**
03 4 **I'M OSCAR (IRE) (122)** J Scott 5 11 4 .....**M Griffiths (3)**
04 3 **IN ON THE ACT (71)** E Williams 5 11 4 .....**Mr C Orr (7)**
05 33 **PREMIER BOND (73) (BF)** N Henderson 5 11 4 .....**D Bass**
06 **TEACHMETOBOUGGIE** A Dunn 5 11 4 .....**A Wedge**
07 **TEN SIXTY (IRE)** P Hobbs 5 11 4 .....**R Johnson**
08 **DOUBLE COURT (IRE)** N Twiston-Davies 4 10 12 .**S Twiston-Davies**
09 **WILLOUGHBY COURT (IRE)** B Pauling 4 10 12 ....**H Beswick (10)**

BETTING: 11-10 Premier Bond, 11-2 I'm Oscar, 7-1 Aurillac, 15-2 In On The Act, 10-1 Ten Sixty, 14-1 Teachmetobouggie, 16-1 Double Court, 20-1 Willoughby Court, Colmers Hill.

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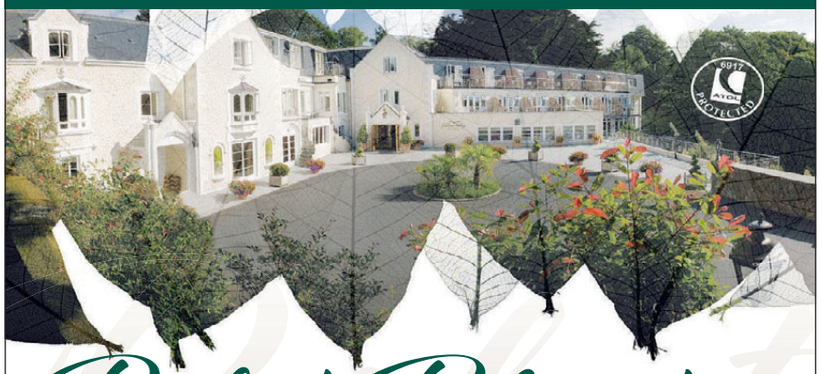

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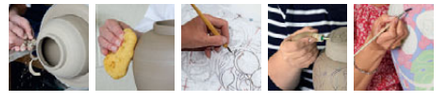

Barclays Premier League

Burnley .... L **Arsenal** L
HT L-L

SAINTS .... 2 **Hull** 0
Ward-Prowse 56 pen
Pelle 81
HT 0-0 Att 30,359

Sunderlnd .... 1 **Crystal P** 4
Wickham 90
Murray 48
Bolasie 51,53,62
HT 0-0 Att 42,073

Swansea .... 1 **Everton** 1
Shelvey 69 pen
Lennon 41
HT 0-1 Att 20,468

Tottenham .... 0 **A. Villa** 1
Benteke 35
HT 0-1 Att 35,687

W.B.A. .... 2 **Leicester** 3
Fletcher 8
Nugent 20
Gardner 26
Huth 80
Vardy 90
HT 2-1 Att 26,768

West Ham .... 1 **Stoke** 1
Cresswell 7
Arnautovic 90
HT 1-0

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	30	12	3	0	30	7	9	4	2	33	19	70
Arsenal	31	11	3	1	37	12	8	3	5	25	20	63
Man Utd	31	13	1	2	36	11	5	7	3	19	17	62
Man City	31	10	3	2	31	12	8	4	4	32	18	61
SAINTS	**32**	**10**	**3**	**4**	**29**	**10**	**7**	**2**	**6**	**15**	**12**	**56**
Liverpool	31	8	5	3	25	16	8	1	6	20	20	54
Tottenham	32	9	3	5	29	23	7	3	5	21	23	54
Swansea	32	8	5	4	23	18	5	3	7	15	22	47
West Ham	32	8	4	5	23	16	3	6	6	19	24	43
Stoke	32	7	2	6	20	19	5	5	7	16	21	43
Crystal P	32	5	3	7	19	21	6	6	5	23	22	42
Everton	32	5	7	3	23	18	4	4	9	17	25	38
Newcastle	31	6	4	5	20	20	3	4	9	13	29	35
W.B.A.	32	6	3	8	21	26	2	6	7	9	20	33
A. Villa	33	3	6	7	14	22	5	2	10	10	23	32
Sunderlnd	32	3	7	7	14	26	2	7	6	11	22	29
Hull	32	4	4	7	17	20	2	6	9	12	25	28
Q.P.R.	32	5	4	7	21	22	2	1	13	17	36	26
Burnley	31	4	6	6	14	19	1	5	9	12	30	26
Leicester	31	3	5	6	15	18	3	2	12	17	33	25

SkyBet Championship

Birminghm .... 2 **Wolves** 1
Kiernan 25
Afobe 21
Gray 61
HT 1-1 Att 19,330

Bolton .... 1 **Norwich** 2
Le Fondre 18
Dorrans 9
Hooper 90
HT 1-1 Att 16,027

Derby Cty .... 1 **Brentford** 1
Bent 90
Pritchard 28
HT 0-1 Att 30,043

Ipswich .... 3 **Blackpool** 2
Sears 24,28
Orlandi 4
Berra 83
Cameron 63
HT 2-1 Att 19,290

Leeds Utd .... 1 **Cardiff** 2
Philips 17
Morrison 14
Gunnarsson 62
HT 1-1 Att 22,401

Middlesbro .... 2 **Rotherham** 0
Tomlin 50
Bamford 66
HT 0-0 Att 19,537

Millwall .... 0 **Watford** 2
Vydra 26
Guedioura 56
HT 0-1 Att 12,075

Nottm For .... 0 **Huddersfld** 1
Scannell 43
HT 0-1 Att 21,572

Reading .... 0 **Blackburn** 0
HT 0-0 Att 17,564

Sheff Wed .... 1 **Charlton** 1
Lavery 41
Gudmundsson 75
HT 1-0 Att 23,257

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
CHERRIES	**42**	**12**	**6**	**3**	**43**	**23**	**11**	**5**	**5**	**46**	**20**	**80**
Norwich	42	11	6	4	46	21	12	4	5	35	23	79
Watford	42	13	3	5	46	21	11	4	6	38	27	79
Middlesbro	42	14	4	3	40	11	9	5	7	22	21	78
Derby Cty	42	11	7	3	44	21	9	5	7	30	25	72
Ipswich	42	13	5	3	35	16	7	6	8	29	32	71
Brentford	42	11	5	5	41	26	10	3	8	30	30	71
Wolves	42	12	5	4	37	20	8	6	7	26	31	71
Nottm For	42	9	5	7	35	27	6	8	7	30	32	58
Blackburn	41	9	5	6	29	23	6	8	7	25	27	58
Charlton	42	8	9	4	30	23	5	8	8	21	31	56
Cardiff	42	9	4	8	28	28	5	9	7	23	27	55
Sheff Wed	42	4	11	6	14	18	9	5	7	24	26	55
Birminghm	41	9	6	6	26	29	4	8	8	23	32	53
Leeds Utd	42	8	5	8	22	22	6	5	10	25	34	52
Huddersfld	42	8	6	7	28	28	5	6	10	24	41	51
Bolton	42	9	7	5	34	25	4	3	14	17	35	49
Reading	41	8	5	7	24	21	4	6	11	20	42	47
Brighton	42	6	7	8	26	27	4	8	9	17	23	45
Fulham	42	8	4	9	31	34	4	5	12	23	41	45
Rotherham	42	7	6	8	28	32	3	7	11	14	32	43
Wigan	42	2	8	11	16	27	6	4	11	21	30	36
Millwall	41	4	6	11	20	37	4	6	10	15	30	36
Blackpool	42	4	6	11	18	34	0	7	14	16	49	25

SkyBet League One

Barnsley .... 1 **Chesterfld** 1
Winnall 62
O'Shea 26
HT 0-1 Att 11,268

Coventry .... 1 **Colchester** 0
O'Brien 36
HT 1-0 Att 8,933

Crewe .... 1 **Leyton O** 1
Dalla Valle 10
Henderson 30
HT 1-1 Att 4,419

Doncaster .... 1 **Rochdale** 1
Bennett 17
Henderson 59
HT 1-0 Att 5,695

Gillingham .... 1 **Bradford** 0
Marquis 72
HT 0-0 Att 5,221

Oldham .... 2 **Sheff Utd** 2
Poleon 22,43
Holt 56
Murphy 73
HT 2-0 Att 5,072

Port Vale .... 0 **M K Dons** 0
HT 0-0 Att 4,379

Preston .... 1 **Bristol C** 1
Beckford 59
Wilbraham 63
HT 0-0 Att 16,441

Scunthorpe .... 2 **Crawley** 1
Dickson 19 og
McLeod 77
Madden 62
HT 1-0 Att 3,009

Swindon .... 1 **Peterboro** 0
Hylton 71
HT 0-0 Att 7,126

Walsall .... 1 **Fleetwood Town** 0
Bradshaw 86
HT 0-0 Att 3,534

Yeovil .... 1 **Notts Cnty** 1
Hollis 10 og
Thompson 79
HT 1-0 Att 3,947

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bristol C	42	15	4	2	40	15	11	7	3	40	21	89
Preston	41	12	8	1	38	19	11	4	5	31	15	81
M K Dons	41	13	3	4	46	17	9	7	5	35	23	76
Swindon	40	12	3	5	33	22	10	4	6	33	23	73
Sheff Utd	42	10	5	6	33	22	9	6	6	30	27	68
Chesterfld	42	11	4	6	36	24	7	6	8	25	28	64
Rochdale	41	10	3	7	31	22	8	3	10	36	31	60
Fleetwood	42	8	9	4	26	21	8	2	11	19	24	59
Bradford	41	7	6	8	25	27	8	6	6	26	20	57
Barnsley	42	10	4	7	35	28	6	5	10	20	30	57
Peterboro	42	9	4	8	22	22	8	2	11	24	28	57
Gillingham	42	9	6	6	33	28	5	7	9	25	33	55
Doncaster	41	6	5	10	19	27	8	7	5	32	28	54
Oldham	42	8	6	7	31	33	6	6	9	21	30	54
Walsall	41	6	8	7	21	24	6	7	7	16	18	51
Coventry	42	6	8	7	23	29	6	6	9	22	26	50
Scunthorpe	41	8	4	8	23	25	5	7	9	31	40	50
Port Vale	42	8	4	9	28	27	6	3	12	21	32	49
Leyton O	41	5	5	11	29	32	7	6	7	26	26	47
Crawley	42	8	6	7	27	31	4	5	12	20	37	47
Crewe	42	8	6	7	20	26	5	2	14	18	45	47
Notts Cnty	41	4	5	11	20	28	7	8	6	20	25	46
Colchester	41	6	2	12	26	33	6	6	9	25	33	44
Yeovil	42	4	7	10	15	31	4	3	14	17	37	34

SkyBet League Two

AFC Wimbledon 0 **Oxford Utd** 0
HT 0-0 Att 4,234

Cambridge .... 2 **Acc Stanley** 2
Elliott 8
Mingoia 39
Bird 79
Conneely 90
HT 1-1 Att 5,569

Carlisle .... 1 **Dagenham** 0
Kennedy 55
HT 0-0 Att 3,660

Luton .... 0 **Burton Albion** 1
Palmer 79
HT 0-0 Att 8,680

Morecambe .... 3 **POMPEY** 1
Kenyon 10,69
Chaplin 85
Amond 90
HT 1-0 Att 2,065

Newport Cnty .... 0 **Bury** 2
Lowe 21
Nardiello 88
HT 0-1 Att 3,123

Plymouth .... 2 **Mansfield** 1
O'Connor 2
Oliver 64
McHugh 63
HT 1-0 Att 6,626

Shrewsbry .... 4 **Exeter** 0
Akpa Akpro 18,73
Collins 62
Barnett 90
HT 1-0 Att 5,442

Southend .... 1 **Tranmere** 0
Corr 38
HT 1-0 Att 5,846

Stevenage .... 2 **Northmptn** 1
Whelpdale 65
Diamond 39
Walton 90
HT 0-1 Att 3,378

Wycombe .... 2 **Cheltnham** 1
Pierre 45
Berry 54
Mawson 56
HT 1-0 Att 3,907

York .... 1 **Hartlepool** 0
Summerfield 67
HT 0-0 Att 5,424

DRAW: Everton's Gareth Barry (left) and Swansea City's Ki Sung-Yueng in action during today's match at the Liberty Stadium

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Burton Alb	42	15	3	3	30	11	10	6	5	30	23	84
Shrewsbry	42	16	4	1	42	9	9	4	8	23	19	83
Wycombe	42	9	7	5	28	23	12	7	2	34	18	77
Bury	41	12	3	5	30	19	10	4	7	25	20	73
Southend	41	10	8	3	22	9	10	4	6	26	26	72
Stevenage	42	13	3	5	35	23	5	8	8	23	27	65
Plymouth	42	12	5	4	30	11	6	5	10	19	21	64
Newport Cnty	42	9	7	5	28	21	8	4	9	19	27	62
Luton	42	11	4	6	32	19	6	6	9	17	24	61
Exeter	42	7	8	6	28	27	9	5	7	29	32	61
Northmptn	42	12	2	7	35	24	5	4	12	26	31	57
Morecambe	42	7	6	8	22	25	8	6	7	25	22	57
Wimbledon	42	10	6	5	33	24	4	7	10	19	32	55
POMPEY	**42**	**11**	**5**	**5**	**33**	**21**	**2**	**9**	**10**	**16**	**29**	**53**
Dagenham	42	8	2	11	26	26	7	5	9	24	29	52
Oxford Utd	42	6	8	7	24	23	6	7	8	19	25	51
Acc Stanley	42	9	5	7	29	29	5	4	12	24	40	51
Cambridge	42	6	5	10	29	29	6	7	8	26	28	48
York	42	4	10	7	14	18	6	8	7	29	28	48
Carlisle	42	8	4	9	30	34	5	2	14	20	35	45
Mansfield	42	9	5	7	22	22	3	4	14	12	33	45
Hartlepool	42	7	4	10	19	28	4	3	14	14	34	40
Tranmere	42	5	7	9	26	30	4	5	12	17	29	39
Cheltnham	42	4	8	9	19	28	4	5	12	17	34	37

Scottish Premiership

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	31	12	2	2	36	7	11	2	2	28	8	73
Aberdeen	31	11	3	2	31	13	9	2	4	20	14	65
Inverness CT	32	8	6	2	23	16	8	1	7	21	17	55
Dundee Utd	31	10	2	4	28	17	5	2	8	24	29	49
St Johnstn	33	8	2	6	17	15	6	4	7	12	17	48
Dundee	32	5	7	4	23	21	6	4	6	21	22	44
Hamilton	33	6	5	5	26	19	6	2	9	16	29	43
Partick	33	7	4	6	28	18	3	4	9	13	20	38
Kilmarnock	31	7	1	7	19	20	3	7	6	14	20	38
Ross Cnty	32	6	0	10	17	26	3	7	6	19	30	34
Motherwell	33	6	3	7	19	19	3	1	13	14	38	31
St Mirren	32	1	2	13	8	25	5	1	10	14	31	21

Dundee Utd .... 1 **Hamilton** 0
Erskine 70
HT 0-0 Att 5,243

Inverness CT .... 1 **Celtic** 1
Ofere 5
Griffiths 3
HT 1-1 Att 6,059

Partick .... 2 **Motherwell** 0
Taylor 54,61
HT 0-0 Att 5,003

St Johnstn .... 1 **Dundee** 0
Graham 26
HT 1-0 Att 6,386

Scottish Championship

Alloa .... 3 **Dumbarton** 0
Flannigan 7, Cawley 21
Spence 71
HT 2-0 Att 535

Cowdenbth .... 1 **Livingston** 2
Wedderburn 48
White 63,80
HT 0-0 Att 624

Scottish League One

Ayr Utd .... 2 **Peterhead** 4
Forrest 18
Rodgers 42, Brown 53,59
Preston 21
McDonald 76
HT 2-1 Att 998

Brechin .... 2 **Stirling A** 1
A Jackson 12,90
Cunningham 86
HT 1-0 Att 427

Dunfrmline .... 1 **Stranraer** 0
El Bakhtaoui 83
HT 0-0 Att 1,951

Forfar .... 2 **Airdrieonians** 0
Fotheringham 30
Dunlop 89
HT 1-0 Att 772

Morton .... 3 **Stenhsmuir** 2
MacDonald 78, McManus 87
Meechan 35
S McCluskey 90
McMullan 55
HT 0-1 Att 1,568

Scottish League Two

Berwick .... 0 **Clyde** 0
HT 0-0 Att 506

East Fife .... 1 **Albion R** 0
Dickson 30
HT 1-0

E Stirling .... 0 **Montrose** 1
Campbell 21
HT 0-1 Att 305

Elgin .... 2 **Arbroath** 1
Gunn 62, Sutherland 73
Linn 58
HT 0-0 Att 828

Queen Park .... 2 **Annan Athletic** 0
Burns 37, Rooney 45
HT 2-0 Att 462

Grey panels indicate High-scoring games

POOLS CHECK

No.		
1	L	L
2	1	1
3	L	L
4	L	L
5	1	2
6	1	2
7	3●	1
8	1	1
9	1	1
10	3●	1
11	1	3●
12	1	3●
13	2	2
14	3●	1
15	1	1
16	1	3●
17	1	2
18	1	1
19	1	1
20	2	2
21	3●	1
22	3●	1
23	1	1
24	3●	3●
25	3●	1
26	1	2
27	3●	1
28	2	2
29	3●	2
30	1	1
31	1	2
32	1	2
33	3●	1
34	2	2
35	3●	3●
36	1	2
37	1	2
38	1	1
39	1	1
40	1	1
41	1	1
42	1	1
43	1	1
44	1	1
45	1	2
46	1	2
47	3●	3●
48	L	L
49	1	2

Local non-league results

VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier:
AFC Telford Utd 1 Lincoln City 0
Barnet 3 Halifax town 0
Braintree Town 1 Aldershot Town 1
Bristol Rovers 2 Southport 0
Chester FC 3 Dover Athletic 1
Dartford 3 Nuneaton Town 1
Eastleigh 3 Alfreton Town 1
Forest Green Rovers 3 Macclesfield Tn 1
Grimsby Town 0 Wrexham 1
Torquay United 2 Altrincham 0
Welling Utd 3 Kidderminster Harriers 0
Woking 3 Gateshead 0
South:
Bromley 2 Eastbourne Borough 1
Ebbsfleet Utd 1 Boreham Wood 1
Farnborough 1 Chelmsford City 3
Gosport Borough 1 St Albans City 2
Hayes & Yeading Utd 2 Bath City 0
Hemel Hempstead 0 Bishops Stortford 3
Staines Town 0 Concord Rangers 2
Sutton Utd 2 Basingstoke Town 1
Wealdstone 0 Whitehawk 2
Weston-super-Mare 0 Maidenhead Utd 2
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division:Arlesey Town 0 Paulton Rovers 0
Banbury Utd 3 Weymouth 0
Bideford 0 Biggleswade Town 1
Burnham 0 Redditch Utd 2
Chippenham Tn 1 Cambridge City 1
Dorchester Town 1 St Neots Town 1
Dunstable Town 2 Slough Town 4
Histon 1 Cirencester Town 1
Hungerford 2 Chesham Utd 0
Poole Town 2 Hitchin Town 2
Truro City 2 Corby Town 1
Division One South&West:
Bishops Cleeve 4 Bashley 0
Bridgwater Town 3 AFC Totton 1
Cinderford Town 1 Clevedon Town 1
Didcot Town 1 Evesham Utd 5
Larkhall Athletic 5 Tiverton Town 0
Mangotsfield Utd 1 Taunton Town 0
Sholing 0 Wantage Town 0
Shortwood Utd 2 North Leigh 2
Stratford Town 2 Fleet Town 1
Wimborne Town 2 Swindon Suprmarine 1
Yate Town 0 Merthyr Town 0
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division:
AFC Portchester 2 Brockenhurst 1
Alresford Town 3 Bemerton HH 3
Blackfield & Langley 4 Whitchurch Utd 1
Fawley 2 Moneyfields 1
Hamworthy Utd 1 Christchurch 1
Newport IoW 0 Horndean 2
Petersfield Tn 1 Lymington 0
Verwood Town 3 Bournemouth 3
Winchester City 3 Totton & Eling 0
Division One:
Andover NS 2 Laverstock & Ford 0
Fleet Spurs 3 Romsey Town 4
New Milton 1 Cowes Sports 3
US Portsmouth 3 Hythe & Dibden 0
PUMA ENGINEERING HANTS LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Colden Common 1 Clanfield 4
Fleetlands 0 Paulsgrove 2
Headley Utd 0 AFC Stoneham 3
Hedge End Rangers 0 Baffins Milton Rovers 1
Liphook Utd 3 Hamble Club 7
Overton Utd 1 Otterbourne 4
Stockbridge 0 Liss Athletic 1
Winchester Castle 3 Bush Hill 2
Division One:
Andover Lions 0 Broughton 2
Infinity 9 Upham 0
Netley CS pp Cadnam Utd
Combination Division:
AFC Stoneham 2 Headley Utd 1
Clanfield 2 Overton Utd 3
Hamble Club 1 Fleetlands 2
Liss Athletic 1 Winchester Castle 0
QK Soton 0 Hedge End Rangers 3
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division:
AFC Totton 2 Ringwood Town 3
Bemerton HH 2 Dorchester Town 2
Division One West:
Bashley 2 Hythe & Dibden 0
Downton 6 Verwood Town 1
East Cowes Vics 2 Fawley AFC 1
Division One East:
Alton Town 3 Newport IoW 3
Tadley Calleva 2 Folland Sports 2
DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Bishopstoke 4 Durley 1
Burridge AFC 2 Solent Saints 0
Comrades 2 Real FC 1
Nursling 1 Hedge End Town 0
Senior 1:
AFC Gulf Western 2 Braishfield 1

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